



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Major Upgrade at McCall Middle School WFEE Gives Laptop Computers to All Teachers**

The “back to school buzz” at McCall Middle School this year is all about computers – 59 new laptops that, according to Principal Vandy French “promise to infuse new energy into our teaching and daily operation.” The laptops are the gift of the Winchester Foundation for Educational Excellence, a non profit organization that has been supporting Winchester public schools since 1992.

“Access to up to date technology is crucial to the education of our students,” says WFEE President Nicholas D’Angelo. “The laptops represent a \$70,000 investment in the future of our children. Our donors were quick to step forward when they realized the state of technology at McCall.” McCall was renovated in 2000 and, at that time, outfitted with state of the art personal computers. “Over the last seven years our computers have gotten a lot of use,” explains Principal French. “But, technology has moved forward at a rapid pace and we have lagged behind. PCs shutting down in the middle of lessons and failed internet connections have frustrated students and teachers. With the new laptops we anticipate moving forward in a big way.” Laptops will be given to all teachers on September 4<sup>th</sup>.

Upgrading technology at McCall and Winchester High School was a major focus of WFEE in 2007. In addition to the laptops at McCall the Foundation donated \$55,000 to WHS to complete the installation of LCD projectors which support the building’s wireless environment. “As always,” D’Angelo noted, “we are struck by the generosity of so many parents, townspeople and other foundations.” WFEE raised \$60,000 in May of 2007 with its annual Celebration of Education. A very generous gift from the John and Mary Murphy Foundation allowed WFEE to finalize the purchase of the laptops and will also fund additional grants in 2008.

WFEE funds teacher grants designed to foster innovation and excellence in teaching and learning. In addition to its grants program, WFEE provided \$860,000 over two years to fund teacher salaries. The most recent gifts support the ongoing goal of Winchester schools to improve availability and the use of technology in the classroom.

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