

## Education Just Got A Little More Portable

Catherine McAuley Launches Anticipated Laptop Initiative

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Portland, ME –Administration and the Board of Trustees of Catherine McAuley High School along with their technology partners, Systems Engineering, are proud to announce the launch of Catherine McAuley’s new personal laptop initiative on Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Starting Monday students will have a customized laptop assigned to them. This significant educational tool is expected to have a very positive impact on the teaching and learning environment at CMHS.

Committed to the private, college preparatory education of young women, Catherine McAuley High School has tailored its teaching and academic style to accommodate the way girls learn best. By integrating visual literacy and technology, the school’s educators will capitalize on the latest in curriculum resources and a student’s ability to excel with real-world business tools that they will use throughout their careers. With great satisfaction at what has been accomplished, the school’s Principal, Sr. Edward Mary affirms, “Our Faculty returned to the 2007 Academic year with a renewed enthusiasm, there is an excitement on campus that one feels the minute you walk through our doors. During the spring and summer months many faculty have been working with their new laptop, testing various software packages and collaborating in design and selection of new teaching tools. This has provided them the confidence that will be the foundation for our students’ success in this new program.”

This program seeks to use technology by allowing students to execute assignments in different and interesting ways and with endless opportunities to share and help others through secured chat rooms monitored by faculty advisors. McAuley’s Chair of its Board of Trustees, Pamela Saunders, comments, “It was our goal to develop a program that assures every student receives a laptop and every academic discipline embraces technology so that each student is able to collaborate online with Faculty and students, access an extensive array of research and educational software resources, all while learning in an environment that is crafted to the unique multi-tasking ability of this generation.” An incredible management and motivational tool for the modern classroom, the personal laptops provide a standard platform for Faculty and students with software that supports classroom lessons as well as a collaborative tool for communication.

To make this program possible, the decision makers at the all-girls school went through a comprehensive needs analysis which included interaction from Maine’s Director of Education Technology to insure formulation of the most effective technology program for its young women. After taking into consideration equipment, software, and educational training capabilities, the School Board working with Administration and Faculty, chose Systems Engineering to assist in the design and deployment of this ground-breaking initiative. As a leader of information technology in the northern New England area since 1987, Systems Engineering has successfully leveraged their relationship with its vendors, like Microsoft and Lenovo/IBM, to provide a solution that would compliment the core curriculum and facilitate McAuley’s desire to achieve a fully wireless campus.

“It has been the creation of a true partnership” states Dennis Flaherty, Director of Operations and Finance, “From design to deployment it has been a collaborative effort, culminating in a successful deployment.”-

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