



Dover School to get new computers

By JOSH STILTS / Reformer Staff

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DOVER -- After being selected to participate in a statewide effort to increase the use of technology and online capabilities, students at Dover Elementary will be issued new computers.

As part of the e-Vermont Grant, awarded to Dover by the Vermont Council on Rural Development, fourth, fifth and sixth-grade students will be presented with new Netbooks, provided by Digital Wish, the educational component of e-Vermont, and Dell.

On Wednesday, May 11, Eric Bird, a lead trainer with Digital Wish, will be handing out new computers and printers and will give the students an introduction about how to get started using them.

Patrick Moreland, economic development specialist for the town of Dover, said the value of the new equipment goes, "way beyond these computers and the printers."

"In addition to the hardware, the school is receiving professional technical assistance on improving the use of technology throughout the school building," Moreland said. "The teachers are being provided with a valuable professional development opportunity that will support the use of modern technology in their classroom while supporting them to work within their existing curriculum."

Moreland said the timing for the school couldn't have been better with the recent decision for the school to support the Vermont Fiberconnect program, which will provide higher bandwidth and faster Internet speeds.

Equipment and training professionals are "arriving just in time to see to it that our kids will get every possible benefit from these investments," Moreland said.

He added that this summer, the Dover School and

the Dover Free Library will serve as community education centers for classes being taught by staff from the Vermont State College system and the Vermont Small Business Development Center.

Spokesman for e-Vermont, Michael Levine, said that other towns in Vermont that have already begun this program a year ago are already seeing its benefits.

Dover is one of 24 towns in the state to be selected for the program and the only one in Windham County, Moreland said.

The two-year initiative was designed to help rural towns in Vermont take advantage of the Internet to create jobs, drive school innovation, provide social services and increase civic involvement, Levine said.

"E-Vermont isn't stringing cable or fiber but is working to make better use of Broadband where it is available," he said.

The project is being supported by a \$2.5 million stimulus grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce with additional support from various philanthropists and corporate associations.

For more information visit www.e4vt.org.

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