

## Laptop Damage and Protection May 14, 2012



*Please know that we do not own the laptops that have been provided the students and teachers. They have been leased over four years from the State through an agreement with Apple. This fall the State and Apple changed their policy regarding liquid spill damage to these laptops. Such damage will no longer be paid for under the warranty; and school districts, the lessees, become solely responsible. The cost for repair for this damage almost equals the cost of the device; and you can't fool Apple. It has installed a sensor that is triggered when liquid is detected. So...please do not use your laptop in the presence of food or drink. Keep the coffee far removed. We cannot afford this new liability.*

***DIRECTIONS Newsletter, February 2011***

Since that change occurred last year, we have experienced numerous issues of liquid spills with staff laptops. The intent of last year's message was to raise awareness of the issue and communicate that staff would be responsible for non-warranty covered damages due to liquids.

This year, the leadership of Merrymeeting Teachers' Association asked if a protection option could be available to staff similar to what students can purchase. After reviewing the number of incidents, nature of them, and costs, we have created an option that staff may purchase. We are willing to give this a try and see if it works! Again, the program is optional, but staff are responsible for damages to their laptop that are not covered by the warranty. This protection, except in cases of intentional or gross negligence, would cover that damage.

As explained in the attached, this is a fund that would be used for such damages for those who participate. Any funds left over from one year will carry forward into the next, potentially lowering the cost of protection. All damages and payments made from this fund will be shared with the union leadership annually.

The Tech Department is gearing up to re-image machines for a quick turn-around. Staff will be asked to identify whether they want to participate in this coverage or not at that time. The one time annual fee will be deducted in the fall.

We are pleased to offer this option. We hope it works as intended.

Brad Smith

Superintendent

