

## Successful Rollout of Student Computer Initiative

The Student Computer Initiative has begun, highlighted by the distribution of a computer for each seventh-grade student (one-to-one ratio) at Hudson Memorial School. We'd like to thank the parents who came to HMS on September 6, 2018, to sign the required forms and pick up the student computers. We learned a lot that night about the distribution process and appreciate the parents' patience as we navigated through it for the first time. We expect to have this process run more smoothly when the new seventh graders receive their computers in the fall of 2019. With the computers in use for only three school days, over 42,000 websites have already been visited and very few pages were attempted to be visited that were blocked (see graph below). This is a very good start towards the responsible and effective use of the computers.

In addition, we have initiated a two-to-one ratio for students in the fourth grade at Nottingham West Elementary and Hills Garrison Elementary schools. Next year this process will expand to include fifth graders as well. This will greatly enhance the opportunity for these students to access a computer during the day to improve the learning environment and to increase student achievement. The kindergarten through third graders all have a computer center in their rooms that can accommodate four students at a time to add to the other learning centers in the rooms.

Depending on the grade level, there will be many more opportunities for learning, as well as providing enhanced communication from students-to-teachers and from student-to-student. In a world where computer literacy is must, we feel as though we're taking positive steps towards preparing the students for that world. Please help us to guide students to use and care for the devices appropriately, so this great learning opportunity can be optimal.

