

# A ROBUST 1:1 ROADMAP

Greensboro Day School gives students the confidence to explore and engage



Greensboro Day School  
 Founded: Greensboro, NC  
 Grades: PreK-12  
 Current Enrollment: 746  
 Faculty/Student Ratio: 1:8

## CHALLENGE

Since PC technology first entered the classroom, teachers and schools have aspired to programs that scale the enormous potential of digital learning. What if every student had access to technology that allowed their learning to be deeply personalized, dynamically engaging, and designed to prepare them for lifelong, real-world success?

The idea of 1:1 computing is simple enough. However, it's the details that slow down and complicate adoption — budgets especially. As a K-12 school, Greensboro Day School in Greensboro, NC, worked to develop their own universal 1:1 program and relied on global technology leader Lenovo™ to help the school accelerate outcomes while maximizing these investments.

## GETTING 1:1 MATH RIGHT

The critical business of learning can only succeed through minimum disruption and maximum engagement. As 1:1 instructional models make technology indispensable to teaching and learning, the pressure grows on IT and their decisions. Today's choices will have a lasting impact on instruction. Wrong choices made today will resonate for years.

Greensboro Day has been careful as they work to bring technology to the classroom in meaningful ways. As the school nears its 50th anniversary, Lenovo™ has been part of that mission for nearly half that time, with older ThinkPad models still in service. As Dr. Dana Smith, Director of Technology says, "I show them an old A22 running Windows 98 on 64MB of RAM. The children were amazed it seemed so familiar, but so ancient at the same time."

But even their veteran IT and instructional staff faced challenges as they moved to true 1:1 computing. It wasn't just about the right device, but rather carefully matching need and solution:

- Right-sizing device choices to match student learning strengths and limitations by grade level
- Future-proofing selections to ensure students and devices can evolve together
- Supporting seamless learning and limited device or service downtime — and putting a service and support plan in place to back that up
- Doing it all while being responsible with limited budgets

## SERVING DIVERSE NEEDS WITH A DIGITAL PATH TO SUCCESS



Requiring technologists and instructional specialists to work together to deliver the right tool at the right time for students is critical. For Greensboro Day, it meant applying best practice and proven science to meet strength with strength. As the student progresses, so does the technology, making the most use of learning time and budget.



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- Grades K-3 tablets to help introduce students while observing limitations
- Grades 4-5 Chromebooks to empower digital learning and assessments
- Grades 6-8 Lenovo 11e laptops are introduced
- Grades 9-12 Full-powered ThinkPad® Yoga™ 380 Windows laptops to support real-world exploration, collaboration, and problem solving

The idea, ultimately, wasn't just giving students laptops while duplicating old models of teaching and learning. It was about ensuring technology played a part in the real transformation of how the school creates the "intellectual, ethical, and interpersonal foundations students need to become constructive contributors to the world" as their mission demands.

## FROM IDEA TO IMPLEMENTATION: THE QUALITY DIFFERENCE

The key to always-on 1:1 is dependability. Even in an enterprise setting, four years is a long life for a laptop. When you add in K-12 'hurry and hustle' and users that aren't always careful, that lifespan can get a lot shorter. Greensboro relied on Lenovo's legendary quality and industry-leading warranty protection to achieve what they call an "uninterrupted educational broadcast". "From a little problem to a worst-case scenario, I need to know that I'm covered from whatever possible things could happen," says Smith.

Another secret ingredient to the Greensboro Day solution was Lenovo Accidental Damage Protection. "It's not something other vendors are able to offer," Smith says. It gives students, teachers, and IT real peace of mind by:

- covering common damages that fall outside traditional warranty coverages, protecting devices from drops, spills, scratches, and other mishaps
- eliminating unexpected costs and downtime
- keeping students focused, connected, and learning

Combined with a parts depot, a pool of loaners, and dedicated IT staff, the school got the confidence it needed to scale 1:1 computing in meaningful ways. Students also increased their own knowledge of managing their computers and have become solid self-maintainers of their technology.

## NOT JUST STUDENTS: 1:1 FOR FACULTY



As the school moved from desktops to laptops for students, the staff has adapted to mobility with Lenovo ThinkPad Yoga devices at the same time. It immediately made the hard-working staff more productive, whether they were working from home or travelling to learn and collaborate with peers. As Dr. Smith discovered, “Mobility makes all the difference.” Since the upper-school teachers have the same laptops as their students, they are also able to be confident in working with the students on technology issues.

## MOVING FORWARD: WHAT’S NEXT?

Building on the success of the 1:1 implementation, the school is working to refresh other devices as well, including desktops (still ideal in some admin and lab applications) and the workstation PCs that are vital to STEM and media education. “I have my Lenovo rep on speed dial” says Smith, explaining that when a good idea emerges, Lenovo is the partner to help her land it. Over the years, it’s been crucial. “I can’t tell you how many times they’ve helped us get things right, even when it’s a third-party problem. That’s how this relationship was formed, time after time.”

## ABOUT LENOVO

As the world’s leading technology partner for K-12, Lenovo is dedicated to helping teachers and students fully embrace possibility with confidence. We know programs like Greensboro Day School’s 1:1 initiative are vital to the future. That’s why every solution we build is designed to empower the achievement and discovery necessary to bigger learning and life outcomes.

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Dr. Dana Smith,  
Director of Technology  
Greensboro Day School

To learn more about Lenovo for K-12, please visit [www.lenovo.com/education](http://www.lenovo.com/education)