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## **Technology comes to Hoover students**

The school receives a grant for a set of laptop computers

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Cristal Campa beamed as she showed off her personal Web site.

The Hoover Elementary School fifth-grader has posted her homework, including information about her electricity experiment for the science fair. She has downloaded and posted pictures. And she is conducting a poll about her visitors' favorite singers.

Campa's classmates in teacher Pam Gartner's class are just as technologically savvy, thanks to a grant from the Beaumont Foundation of America.

The grant provided Hoover with a "mobile wireless laptop computer lab" worth \$61,000 last fall. Now, instead of students trudging off to a computer lab, the lab comes to them.

At least twice per week, Gartner rolls a large metal cart into the classroom, plugs it in and places a Toshiba laptop on each student's desk. The students use the laptops for reading, writing and research projects, Gartner said.

The mobile labs may be the wave of the future for schools. They save space and time and let students work in their regular environments.

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden had a hand in helping Hoover get the grant, and he recently visited the students.



TIMOTHY J. GONZALEZ / Statesman Journal

Fifth-graders Kendra Montoya (center) and Cristal Campa (right) work on laptops Thursday in their classroom at Hoover Elementary School. The school received a grant providing a mobile wireless computer lab. The computers come to the classroom instead of the students going to the computers.

“I want to make sure that nobody is left behind when it comes to the Oregon of the future,” Wyden said.

Several Oregon schools received a total of \$1 million worth of equipment.

The grants are awarded to schools and community groups that serve low-income residents.

Hoover is not the first school in Salem-Keizer to acquire the technology. But it is especially significant for Hoover’s 562 students because most don’t have computers at home. Of those who do, few have Internet service.

Eighty-five percent of Hoover’s students are low-income, and about half are in the English Language Learner program.

“Now they have instant messaging, e-mail, that communication that is part of so many children’s lives right now,” Hoover principal Steve Larson said. “They have access to the information that’s out there that their peers might have. We’re able to bridge that gap.”

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