



By Carolyn Lee

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Chase County Schools has taken possession of new laptops for both high school students and their teachers. Junior high and high school teachers began learning about the Macs this week during on-site training.

The school leased 197 new 13-inch Macbooks recently to replace three-year old Dell laptops. Students will receive 170 of those new computers. Teachers and staff will receive the rest.

The laptops were leased from Apple of California for a total of \$258,165, to be paid over a three-year period, according to Supt. Matt Fisher. The students' laptops cost \$989.10 apiece, while the teachers' cost \$1,015.20 apiece.

The lease includes a three-year AppleCare warranty on all machines, a server, network connections and the staff training, which costs \$11,700.

Teachers participated in the training Tuesday through Thursday with a Mac technician.

Some federal REAP money will be used to pay the lease, Fisher noted, with the rest budgeted.

The lease cost is about \$10,000 more than the Dell lease, Fisher noted, and is interest-free.

The school bought out the Dell lease and has retained the old laptops. Some of those will be used to replace older machines on the carts wheeled around the elementary and junior high rooms.

Those older cart laptops, some five to seven years old, will either be taken by teachers wanting more computers in their classrooms, or will be sold at a later date, Fisher said.