

Steven's Strategies

<i>Meet Steven</i>	Steven is a high school Language Arts teacher. Recently, his department purchased laptop carts for each classroom. Steven and his students have access to one of the carts for each of his five classes throughout the day.
<i>Ready to Learn</i>	At first, students would enter the classroom and immediately ask, "Are we using laptops today?" Steven began posting a note on the door that let students know when they would be using laptops. Students quickly caught on, and they now get settled and ready for class more efficiently.
<i>Establish Routines</i>	<p>When laptops are used in class, Steven helps his students establish a routine by projecting a slide at the start of class with a few simple steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Pick up a laptop.2. Make sure it is charged.3. Login.4. Go to our course Web page.5. Start on today's opening activity. <p>After a while, students know what is expected, and Steven no longer needs to project the instructions.</p>
<i>Save Student Work</i>	The school does not supply server space to store student work, so Steven has students bring USB drives to class. Students store all their materials on their USB drives, and they are responsible for bringing their drives to class. Steven finds that saving student work is simple and does not take too much time.
<i>Modeling Use</i>	Steven trusts his students, but he wants to ensure they understand what is considered "acceptable use" of the laptops in his classroom. He takes time to use the laptops with students and models best practices. When he works with them, he focuses on individuals before technology, saves often, and focuses on the content and task at hand.
<i>Plan for the Unexpected</i>	As students work on writing projects, they often go to the library or multimedia lab to develop different aspects of their assignments. Students are much more mobile than Steven expected. When he realizes that laptops are not being charged when students are out of the classroom, he works with other teachers to come up with new ways to plan for charging laptops and saving large student files.