

## **Backpack Weight & Volume – One More Thing??**

Some parents have very appropriate concerns that netbooks will add “yet one more thing” to already overloaded student backpacks. We've found that netbooks actually reduce both the weight and volume of backpacks. The district is very actively pursuing the adoption of online textbooks and renegotiating textbook agreements with current publishers to convert to online/digital versions.

Already, the netbooks have eliminated the need for Social Studies, Science, and Algebra textbooks, which were previously carried back & forth to school. Instead, students have downloaded digital versions of these texts onto their netbook and/or home computer. This capability will soon be available for students in some of the other math courses. Digital journals/learning logs have also replaced the hard-bound composition books in some classes. As 1-to-1 computing becomes the norm, we'll see even more textbooks become available digitally.

We've all been very concerned about the increasing load in student backpacks. One-to-one computing helps address this issue rather than compounds it. It won't solve it overnight, but will chip away at it!