

# Peace initiative aimed at laptops

by Patrick Thomas

Queen of Peace High School officials are moving closer to their goal to provide each student with a laptop computer after an anonymous alumna offered \$100,000 to help their plans.

The school is working three years ahead of schedule to raise \$400,000 by the end of the calendar year in hopes of providing the computers to

students by next fall.

Queen of Peace launched the Tech 4 Learning Initiative in November to not only put laptop computers in the hands of every student but also to make the high school completely wireless.

As of Nov. 27, Queen of Peace parents, faculty, staff, alumna and board members had raised \$99,355. An anonymous alumna also offered to

contribute up to \$100,000 to match the funds.

Kathleen Hanlon, interim principal and chief administrator at Queen of Peace, said she knew who the alumna was but said the woman did not want to reveal her identity.

"She wanted to put the focus on the fundraiser. She would like to move this project up further, and we took the bite,"

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## Laptops

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Hanlon said.

The \$100,000 gift will be the largest single donation in Queen of Peace's history, school officials said in a news release.

"The Peace Community is thrilled by the generosity of our alumna and all who support and recognize the value of computers in the education of our students," Hanlon said. "The Tech 4 Learning Initiative will help empower Peace students to learn in many different ways: critical thinking, problem solving, mastering information and communications illiteracies, and promoting global awareness and interaction. We ask for everyone's help in funding this new pathway to learning."

The Queen of Peace program will give students 24-hour access to the valuable learning tools and make Peace the first girls high school in Chicago to provide computers to all of its students.

The high school will lease the computers from an undetermined major supplier as part of a reduced buyout arrangement. The more money the school raises, the less the cost of the laptops will be for students.

Earlier this year, Seton Academy in South Holland started providing laptops for students, and many other schools are beginning to utilize the technological advantages laptops offer. Most private schools in St. Louis offer



Queen of Peace High School Administrator Kathleen Hanlon (left) accepts a \$10,000 check from Board Member and 1976 Peace alumna, Ellen Jordan Reidy, for Peace's Tech 4 Learning Initiative.

students laptops, and Chicago area schools are starting to follow, Hanlon said.

Meanwhile, Peace currently features school-wide Internet access, nine wireless rooms, several computer centers and a video broadcasting/graphic design lab.

Once the Tech 4 program is in place, the high school plans to open a computer lab and institute a self-maintenance program, providing students with a course option that teaches laptop repair. This entrepreneurial program will also teach students to manage the lab facility, order parts and supplies, and repair other equipment, as well as hone customer service skills.

Letters soliciting contributions have been mailed to all

alumnae and friends, and donations continue to come in daily, officials said. The Peace Parent Association is hosting a Tech 4 Learning Initiative raffle through Dec. 18.

For more information, visit [queenofpeacehs.org](http://queenofpeacehs.org) or contact Development Director Cindy Kmetty at (708) 458-7600, ext. 250.

Hanlon said even if the school could raise only \$300,000 she is confident the board will push for the wireless infrastructure next year. The level of support from the likes of parents and teachers during the fundraiser has been a joy to watch, Hanlon said.

"It's been something that's pulled all of our constituent groups together."