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## Taking a break



After a morning of registering for classes and New Student Conference activities, incoming freshman **Clint Holland**, an aerospace engineering major, takes a quick break from the excitement on campus.

## Teachers behind in technology

WASHINGTON (AP) — In suburban Kansas City, students teach their teachers a thing or two about technology.

"They teach them the basics, gently suggesting: 'Here's why you're getting that blinking light, you might try this,'" says Bob Moore, executive director of information technology services for the Blue Valley, Kan., school district.

It is a role reversal increasingly seen in schools across the country, according to a survey released Wednesday by the National School Boards Association.

The study of 811 school districts showed that 54 percent of respondents rely on students to provide technical assistance for computer systems.

Teachers, meanwhile, are "unevenly prepared for using technology as a tool for teaching and learning," with 69 percent of respondents rating new teachers as average or novices at computer work, the foundation said.

As in Blue Valley's four high schools, the students often provide the how-tos for teachers who, in turn, must learn to integrate the Internet into their lesson plans.

The result is the beginnings of change in the relationship between teachers and stu-

dents as online lessons provide electronic instruction.

"Teachers become the guide on the side, instead of the sage on the stage," said Anne Bryant, executive director of the National School Boards Association.

That may be a snapshot of the future of education, but for now, school districts are struggling to find appropriate roles for students and teachers who exchange information.

In Blue Valley schools, students don't show teachers how to integrate the Internet into lesson plans, for example. And though they perform some technical tasks on the schools' computer systems for academic credit, professional experts handle major problems, such as network breakdowns, Moore said.

"We do have to remember that they are children ... we don't want to give them too much responsibility to put them in a position where they might not be successful," Moore said. At the same time, they are challenged to develop their work skills by doing tasks other than maintenance.

"You don't learn a lot by unboxing a computer and setting it on a desk," Moore added.

That's about the right balance, according to the Bush administration. "If you're just

solely relying on students, there is a problem," said John Bailey, director of educational technology for the Department of Education.

Directed properly, student-led technical assistance can be a "win-win" situation of necessity, Bailey said. Many schools do not have the resources for technical support and have no choice but to rely on students. Some tutor, others run help desks and others have earned network and software certifications.

Most Internet instruction is done in subject areas such as history, social studies and science, according to the survey. Eighty percent of school leaders say the primary instructional use of the Internet is for research that helps teachers shape lesson plans.

But many new teachers aren't experts at using computers and the Internet, school districts said, according to the study.

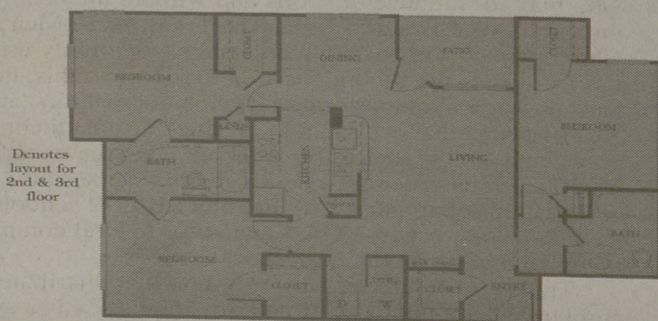
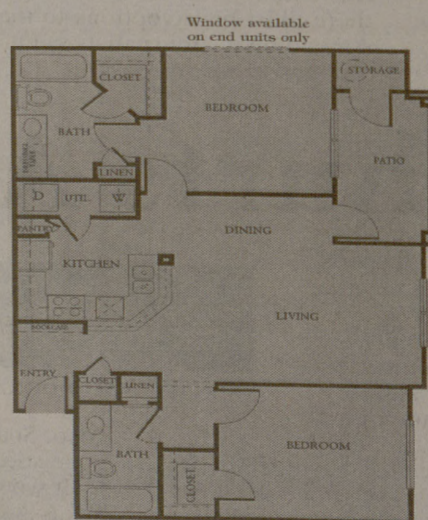
That's where help from students comes.

Of the school districts surveyed, 54 percent reported that students were providing technical support for their districts. In percent of districts, students troubleshoot for hardware, software and other problems, it said. Thirty-nine percent of districts students set up equipment and wiring.

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### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### New restrictions on visitors from Muslim nations

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department proposed new anti-terrorism visa regulations Wednesday to subject tens of thousands of visitors to heavier scrutiny.

Officials said that the new measures, requiring visitors to be fingerprinted and photographed at the border, would mostly affect those from Muslim and Middle Eastern countries.

Attorney General John Ashcroft said the checks would apply to those from countries that the United States believes may harbor or encourage terrorists.

#### Bush to press for Senate approval of nuclear arms reduction treaty

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush summoned lawmakers Wednesday to press for Senate approval this year of the nuclear arms reduction treaty that he and Russian President Vladimir Putin signed last month.

But the senators expressed concern that Russia doesn't have the money to safely store warheads deactivated under the treaty.

Bush called to the White House Sens. Joe Biden, D-Del. chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Richard Lugar, R-Ind., a senior member of the panel, to discuss the new treaty.

The president told them he has a "hope and expectation" the Senate will ratify the treaty.