

Pima Partnership Academy Students Earn Free Laptops

By Mindy Blake

Give a kid a goal, a way to get there, and a reward at the end, and chances are he will be successful. That's the thought behind a new incentive program at a Tucson charter school. This is the day 28 students at Pima Partnership Academy have been waiting for.

They worked hard last semester to get good grades and to not miss school. For their efforts, each student who met the requirements received a free laptop computer. The students' families were there for the celebration Wednesday morning.

Dakota Weitz got straight A's last semester. The thought of getting a laptop motivated him to get up and get going. "I just had to push myself. Sometimes I wanted to stay home. Our family can use the computer. I just had to push myself."

Some of the students are here because they had a tough time at their old schools. They thrive in smaller classes and take advantage of tutoring after school and even on weekends.

The laptop program may be why the school's attendance rate is up. Last year it was 84 percent. Now it's nearly 90 percent.

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