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## Nims to receive 240 sixth-graders

### 'Digital Harmony' needs help putting computers in students' homes

*By TaMaryn Waters*

*DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER*

The Digital Harmony Project, an initiative that puts free computers in the homes of Nims Middle School students, needs help trying to do the same thing next year since the school is expected to receive an influx of sixth-graders.

Coordinators are kicking off an aggressive campaign to raise nearly \$168,000 by July. For the first time, in addition to businesses and major sponsors, individuals or groups can help by "adopting" or covering the cost of computers, which are \$700 apiece.

Tallahassee City Commissioner Andrew Gillum, who launched the project, said the new adoption method allows anyone to help. He said that in the project's two years, the computers, free Internet access and free educational software have helped Principal Kay Collins' mission to transform the school, which went from an F to a C last year.

"It was challenged in every sense of the word," Gillum said of the school.

That's why he and others are even more motivated to get new computers in the homes of the incoming sixth-graders.

As a result of budget cuts, the Leon County School Board voted to close Belle Vue Middle School, located on Belle Vue Way, and Nims is slated to receive 240 incoming sixth-graders. Many of the incoming students are coming from Belle Vue, and the overall projected number of students is twice as many as the school had this year.

Collins said she's hopeful enough money will be raised.

When asked why people, especially those with no direct ties to Nims, should be inspired to help, she said it's about being a blessing in child's life.

She said, "The greatest thing that we can bestow upon one another is love. With that said, love comes in different ways ... And you can help make a difference in their lives."

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## Additional Facts

Here's how to help:

Checks can be made out to Digital Harmony, c/o Go Beyond Foundation, 1342 Timberlane Road, Suite 201-A, Tallahassee, FL 32312. Contributions can also be made through [www.digitalharmonyleon.com](http://www.digitalharmonyleon.com) or [www.gobeyondfoundation.org](http://www.gobeyondfoundation.org).

The project, which was launched by Tallahassee City Commissioner Andrew Gillum, was created as a means for students to gain access to education-based technology.

It's part of the Go Beyond Foundation, which is geared toward promoting programs that improve technology and technical education.

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