

iPads stolen from school

Burglars take 41 tablet computers from South Side Elementary School

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KENDALLVILLE — Forty-one Apple iPad2 tablet computers were stolen from South Side Elementary School in two burglaries in the past two weeks.

Sometime late Wednesday or early Thursday someone forcibly entered the school at 1350 Sherman St. and took 21 iPad2s from a classroom.

Earlier, sometime late Friday, Dec. 30, or early Saturday, Dec.

31, someone broke into the school and took 20 iPad2s from a classroom.

Kendallville Police Chief Rob Wiley believes the two burglaries are related, but wouldn't elaborate on how access to the building and classrooms was made or on security measures in place at the school.

Also taken in both incidents were light-colored battery chargers for each iPad, according to Wiley.

The iPads are black in color in black leather carrying cases. The iPads have no East Noble label or identification on them, according to Wiley.

There was no evidence of vandalism in the school caused by the burglar or burglars. Nothing else apparently was taken during the burglaries.

The iPads were distributed last fall to students in grades 3 and 4

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throughout the school district as part of East Noble's One-to-One technology initiative. K-2 students received iPods, and students in grades 5-12 received laptop computers. Students use the devices for school work.

Apple iPad2s sell at retail from \$500 to \$800 each.

The school district is offering a \$1,000 reward for information that leads to the arrest of the person or persons involved in the thefts.

East Noble officials posted this comment on the school district's website Thursday: "It is sad to see that one or two people in our community would stoop low enough to steal educational materials and tools from our students. These devices provide excellent instructional applications for all students, regardless of their learning levels, that enhance and improve their skills and better prepares them for passing the ISTEP tests."

The statement added,

"Many students have created personalized writing assignments, videos and pictures that are now gone."

Police are conducting interviews, examining evidence and working with East Noble officials.

Anyone who may have seen suspicious activity at the school overnight on Friday, Dec. 30, and Wednesday is asked to contact Kendallville Police at 347-0654.

THIS STORY was posted on *kpcnews.com* at 2:15 p.m. Thursday.