

Chromebook FAQ's

Why is the district looking for expanded technology access for all staff and students?

- The opportunity to ensure that great teaching and learning can happen in all classrooms and not be dependent upon access.
- The opportunity to develop 21st century technology skills that prepare our students for their future and PARCC
- The opportunity to collaborate with staff and other students seamlessly
- The opportunity for students to receive more timely and specific feedback from teachers AND become more self-reflective about their learning.
- The opportunity for students to learn how to use electronic communication (including email and video) and resources responsibly
- The opportunity for students to create more authentic representations of their learning than ever before
- The opportunity for students to choose how they learn and how best to present evidence of learning
- Leveling the playing field for access for all our students
- The opportunity to be self-directed and learn independent problem solving skills

What is the Chromebook?

- A lightweight laptop powered by Chrome's operating system (Chrome OS) with the only app (software) being its Internet browser, Chrome. All other software is accessible through the web.
- A lightweight laptop powered by Chrome OS
- Chrome OS is a Linux-Based Operating System designed by Google to work exclusively with web applications such as Google Apps

Why did the district select this device?

- This device was selected for affordability, durability, built-in virus protection and use with the Google Apps for Education Suite
- It has an 8 second start up and uses Google apps (documents, presentations, calendars) to store products on the Web allowing access from anywhere
- It is portable only weighing 2.4 lbs and has over 6.5 hours of battery life

What will students receive with the computer?

- Each student will receive the Chromebook, power cord and a protective sleeve. Students and parents will also be trained on the use and care of their Chromebook

What if a student forgets their laptop at home?

- Students are required to bring their Chromebook to school every day. Failure to do so will cause the student to be marked “unprepared”

What if a device is stolen?

- Any student/parent that reports a device stolen will need to file a police report and pay for the cost of the Chromebook before the replacement is provided.

What are the Damage policies?

- Damage to the Chromebook, beyond defects in material and workmanship is the responsibility of the students. Parents will be required to pay for the cost of the Chromebook or related accessories if there is intentional or careless handling that causes the damage

What are the requirements for students taking the computer home?

- The use of the Chromebooks at home is encouraged! The Chromebook should always be transported in the protective sleeve.
- Signed parent agreement and an understanding of Chromebook related policies, regulations and procedures

What is the schedule for the 1:1 initiative?

- Upon receiving a signed parent agreement form, students will receive their Chromebook

Educational use questions

Will laptops replace textbooks?

- As our curriculum office reviews and adopts any future textbooks, online components will be a major consideration so as to make online textbook access available. Current textbooks that do not have this component will still be used

What technology access will be available to students other than the Chromebooks?

- Students who have need for computer programs or applications not available on the Chromebook operation system (Chrome OS) will still have the availability of traditional computer labs in the schools as needed

How are teachers being prepared for this change?

- Staff development courses in Google Apps for Education and using Chromebooks in the classroom focused on current district curricular initiatives have begun and will continue to be supported by teachers across the district

How will the use of Chromebooks and Google Apps for education prepare our student for future endeavors beyond Township of Franklin Schools?

- As of 2012, Google Apps for Education is used by over 20 million students. More than 500 schools and districts went back to school with a Chromebook this past fall. Seven of the eight Ivy League universities and 72 of this year's top 100 U.S. universities use Google Apps for Education. We believe that this data supports preparing our students with this widely used knowledge.