

Chromebook FAQ's for HRMS Staff, Students, and Parents

Why are we moving to a 1 to 1 initiative?

In our district strategic plan for SY 2013 - 2018, we have the following vision for students leaving the Danvers Public Schools:

All students are fully engaged and invested in their learning. They demonstrate personal responsibility and are achieving to their maximum capability. They are skilled communicators and problem-solvers who engage in collaborative inquiry, make effective use of technology and apply their learning in real-life situations. Graduates of Danvers Public Schools leave the school system feeling confident and well prepared to continue their learning in the wide array of college and career options available to them. They go on to become productive, responsible, caring citizens of the global community and achieve their definition of success.

A one to one initiative is one step towards reaching this vision for students. As part of this vision, we will work with students to develop the needed 21st Century Learning skills. The Chromebook is a tool to help support critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration and research in our classrooms.

Why Chromebooks?

In 2013 the district became a Google Apps for Education (GAFE) district. This allowed teachers and students to begin using Google's cloud based services such as Google Docs, Sheets and Slides from any computer in school or at home. When it came time to replace the aging laptop carts at HRMS, Chromebooks were a logical choice. They integrate completely with GAFE, are user friendly and are at a price point that would allow the district to move to a one to one environment.

How will Chromebooks be distributed?

The Chromebook distribution for new and rising students will take place during the first 3 days of school. During those days, we will identify times that students will come to a distribution location to receive their Chromebooks. **Students and their families will need to have secured insurance by the first week of school.** The signup and payment of insurance will be done via a link on the HRMS Chromebook 1-1 section of the web page.

What if a Chromebook is damaged or stolen?

Families will be required to pay an annual insurance fee. This fee will cover all accidents, thefts and any other damages from normal use to the Chromebook. All repairs that are caused to a Chromebook by student egregious misuse, and not covered under the insurance policy, will be the responsibility of the family.

Who owns the device?

The Danvers Public Schools owns the devices. The district loans the devices to students as an instructional tool for learning.

How will our network support these devices?

For the past 3 years, we have been upgrading the district's network and, more specifically, the wireless network and internet bandwidth to support the Chromebooks. We were pleased that during the 2015-16 academic year, when a 1-1 initiative at the middle school was in place, we did not experience any slowdowns. This summer, we are adding 30% more capacity to our internet bandwidth. This should provide more than enough WiFi capacity and network strength for this Chromebook initiative as students in the high school join the initiative.

What support will be available to troubleshoot any issues?

As part of this initiative, there will be support available in the HRMS library during school hours to support teachers and students if any need arises.

Can students take them home?

One of the goals of this initiative is to provide students with the ability to use the Chromebooks in school and at home. When they are used at home, they will automatically be connected back to the DPS web filters to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) which imposes this requirement on our schools.

How is classroom usage monitored for safety?

Classroom management of the Chromebooks will be no different than managing a class using a laptop cart. We will be adding an additional software management tool for faculty to use. It will allow a teacher to view any student screen or display a single or multiple screens through their computer onto their SmartBoard. A faculty member can black out any student device screen that is not being used appropriately. All Chromebooks will go through the district's internet filters that allow CIPA authorized web sites to be visited.

Now that students will have the availability of going online 24/7, we have revised the [Holten Richmond Responsible Use Policy](#). It now covers student's responsibility as digital citizens.

What if a student forgets his or her Chromebook?

There will be a limited number of spare Chromebooks available for checkout in the library for students who forgot their devices.

How will Chromebooks be used in the classroom?

Chromebooks are meant to support our current instructional goals. They will be an important tool for developing strong communication skills and will require students to use critical and creative thinking skills in authentic tasks. Their use will support teacher feedback, allow for more access to web based resources and make research easier and faster. We want our students to work collaboratively, use their hands, be creative, draw, write and speak.

Can students print out work?

Ideally, we would like to operate in a digital environment. However, we realize that this is a process and some printing will be needed. If printing is required Cloud Printing is available on the copier in the HRMS library. Students can still print at home accessing their work via their Google Drive account.

What if a student forgets to charge his or her Chromebook at home?

There will be a limited number of charging stations set up in the building.

Is there any special care that needs to be given to these devices?

The Chromebook Guidelines file on this web page includes a section on Chromebook Care. If you have any questions about caring for your Chromebook please refer to it.