



Chromebook Q&A

Q. What is a Chromebook?

A. A Chromebook is a small laptop device designed for cloud computing. Rather than having an operating system and programs loaded on the device itself, most of the operations are conducted through a web browser with applications and files stored on Google cloud computing servers. Typically, most Chromebook operations require an Internet connection, however some 'offline' activity is permitted.

Q. Why a Chromebook rather than an iPad, Mac or Windows device?

A. The Chromebook is tightly integrated with the Google GSuite of applications which are similar to other word processing, spreadsheet, presentation and drawing programs on other platforms. Collaboration and sharing of documents is a widely-used feature of GSuite. Teachers can use the Google Classroom application to assign work to students, collect assignments and comment and grade student work. The Chromebook platform is designed for central device management and control which saves many hours of staff time.



Q. Why assign each student their own device?

A. There are many benefits to doing so. First, the student is expected to learn to be responsible for care of the device and to report problems to their teacher. When devices are commonly shared from a cart history shows they are not treated as well and problems are not reported – students just replace a 'broken' device and simply take another one. This leads to periodic shortages of devices as staff is not aware of an issue. If the student has a problem with their Chromebook, they are expected to report it so it can be corrected. A student won't have to worry about not having access. Additionally, by each student having their own device instead of students sharing devices we hope this will help during cold and flu season.

Another benefit of assigned devices is that students can have applications loaded onto their Chromebook that may not be needed by all students. Seventh-grade students, for example, have apps on their Chromebooks that aren't needed by students in other classes. The management of the devices allows programs specific to a class or student to be 'pushed' to the device easily without the student, teacher or tech having to do so. Every student in grades K – 12 has access to one.

Q. Can my student take their Chromebook home?

A. For grades K through 5 the Chromebook must be returned to the classroom at the end of the school day and may not leave school property. It is configured to work only on the schools' Wi-Fi connection and cannot connect to the Internet elsewhere. Students in grades 6 through 12 only have take-home privileges.

More questions? Please contact your child's teacher so they may answer them or get the answers for you.