

Frequently Asked Questions

One-to-One Learning with Chromebooks | St. Francis de Sales School

1. Why did the district choose to go with a Chromebook over an iPad or a traditional laptop?

After years of research, the district felt that the Chromebook was the best device to meet the goal of preparing students for life after high school. We felt that students need six key skills: Critical Thinking, Research, Collaboration, Adaptability, Communication, and Presentation. The Chromebook, with its deep ties to Google Apps for Education, online assessment compatibility, ease of management, and overall cost was a clear choice.

2. When will these devices to be rolled out to the students?

The plan to pick these up is based on your student's grade. During the rollout, students will also be asked to sign an acceptable use policy specifically for the Chromebooks.

3. Why should my student participate in this program?

Every student in the middle school will be participating in this program both during the school day and at home on nights and weekends. Students will be taking the Chromebooks home after the first quarter, unless directed by the teacher. In the research we have done, the most successful programs were ones where the student used the same device outside of the classroom as well. By taking the device home, the learning becomes integrated into what we are doing at the classroom level. The research reported higher levels of organization and motivation from students. In this program, students will have access to learning tools wherever and whenever they need.

4. What is expected from our students?

The school expectation is that the students will treat this device as if it were their own. Students will be asked to sign an additional technology acceptable use policy that covers the district expectations in detail. A few highlights from that acceptable policy are below.

- The Chromebook will only be used for educational purposes.
- The Chromebook will be fully charged overnight for use in class the next day.
- The Chromebook will be in the district- provided case when it's not in use.
- The student will be careful to keep the device away from any food and liquid, as with any electronic device.

5. Will my student use this in every class?

Giving students Chromebooks will keep them productive. Classroom instruction will be a balance of face-to-face and online learning. With the implementation of the Chromebooks and Google Apps for Education, our goal is to increase critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity among students.

6. How do I print from a Chromebook?

The Chromebooks themselves are not configured to print. This is by design. Students and staff can share documents electronically which removes the need to print most of the time. The files created on a Chromebook are stored in the cloud, not on the device itself. In the event that your student does need to print, they can login to their Google Apps account on a traditional PC to access their files. From there, they can print to wherever they have done in the past.

7. Does the Chromebook require wireless Internet (WiFi) to operate? What if we do not have wireless at home?

The Chromebook does require a wireless Internet connection to function correctly. If your student does not have this access, free wireless is offered in many locations such as the library and McDonalds to name a few. The student can also download items and work "offline" without being connected to the Internet.

8. Is the Internet filtered on the Chromebooks?

Every Chromebook is connected to content filtered Internet while on campus. The school filters out websites that promote content such as gambling, pornography, and violence. When the Chromebook is not on campus, the Internet filtering is the responsibility of the person or organization providing wireless access. In other words, parents are responsible for filtering the Internet at home. There are a number of services that are easy to setup and offer home Internet filtering.

- OpenDNS <http://www.opendns.com/home-internet-security/>
- NetNanny <http://www.netnanny.com/>
- K9 <http://www1.k9webprotection.com/>

9. What support structures will the school provide the families for Internet safety?

St. Francis de Sales Parish School is committed to the safety of our students. During the first part of the school year, students will go through a series of lessons on digital citizenship. This teaches them safety, etiquette, acceptable use, and fair use and copyright when working online. These are skills they will need on an ongoing basis as they use their

Chromebook as a learning tool. Additionally, the district will be offering free Internet Safety classes in throughout the school year. Finally, we will be placing links to several online resources about Internet Safety on the district website.

Please be aware that although we are providing this education, parents will still want to be involved in their student's online presence. We encourage parents to have meaningful conversation with their student on the precautions to be taken while on the Internet. As much as possible, parents should know what sites students are going to and who they are talking to when they are online. Parents should be responsible for what their students are doing at home while the district is responsible for the school environment.

10. What kind of technical support will be available for questions or if problems occur with the Chromebook?

The school will handle any necessary Chromebook repairs. Students and teachers will submit work tickets for any necessary repairs. Extra Chromebooks are available to students in the event a repair is needed.

11. Will my student be bringing the Chromebook home or back/forth between schools and home?

Not at the beginning of the school year. Teachers will work with students on how to use the device efficiently with a positive effect on learning. We want to avoid students taking the devices home just because they are "cool". This could take a few week. However, around the second quarter students in grades 7-8 will take Chromebooks home with them on nights and weekends and students in grades 5-6 will take them home occasionally.

12. What if my student leaves their Chromebook at home?

As your student becomes accustomed to using this device on a regular basis, they begin to become attached to it and rarely leave home without it. If your student does leave their device at home, there will be spares available that they can borrow.