Cherokee - Connect
Leveraging Excellence with Technology

FAQs

What is Cherokee - Connect?
Thanks to the generosity of Cherokee voters, students will now have 1:1 technology, including Chromebooks (Grades 4-12) and iPads (Grades 3 year old-3).
Cherokee - Connect will provide students and teachers with unlimited learning resources from across the world, with the safety and security of the CPS network. The initiative also is expected to save the district significant funds as fewer textbooks and paper materials are needed.

What does 1:1 mean?

One device for each student.

Why give each student a device?
- Increase in Student Engagement
- Allows students to extend themselves in new ways
- Provide tools that connect them to the world on a daily basis
- Richer learning experiences
- Prepare students for college and/or career

Why did CPS choose Chromebooks and iPads?
- Cost
- Ease of use
- Quick boot up time
- Educational-focused programming.
- Allows learning to be personalized
- Synchronization with Google Apps for Education
- Lightweight
- Integrated keyboard and mouse
- Long battery life - allow for student to work through an entire school day without charging
- Possible to put in "test mode" to comply with online based assessments
- Update OS themselves
- Admin can "push out" applications and tools
- Admin can lock out anyone from a lost or stolen Chromebook as a deterrent to theft
- Easy for district staff to manage and deploy in large numbers

What are Chromebooks?
A type of laptop that runs the Chrome operating system instead of Windows OS, Mac OS or Apple iOS. These machines are designed to be used primarily while connected to the Internet, with most applications and documents living in the cloud. They do have storage built within them and can be used offline for some applications.

Which Chromebook did CPS select?
Lenovo N42 (Touch Screen)
Chrome OS
Intel Celeron-N2840 Processor
4GB RAM DDR3L Memory
16GB eMMC SSD Storage
Wifi
Built in camera and microphone

What are iPads?
A type of tablet that runs the Apple iOS operating system instead of Windows OS, Mac OS or ChromeOS. The iPad is a 9.7 inch touch screen tablet PC made by Apple . The iPad is basically a netbook without a keyboard. It has a multi-touch LED-backlit 9.7 x 7.5 inch front display and weighs 1.5 pounds, with a battery that lasts up to ten hours.

Which iPad did CPS select?
Apple iPad Air
Apple iOS
32 gig memory
Wifi
Built in camera and microphone

Do the devices have cases on them?
Yes, Chromebooks and iPads do have durable, rugged cases on them to protect the device from normal treatment and provide suitable means for carrying the device.

How is one student's Chromebook and iPad device identified from another student?
There will be a ID holder on the protective case that will allow for Student Names. District asset tags with barcodes will be on each device and each device has a serial number.

Will the devices ever leave the building?
Students with iPads in the 3 year old program thru 3rd grade and students with Chromebooks in grade 4th thru 5th will leave their devices at school to charge. Students in grades 6th-12th grade will take their Chromebook home each night.

What login will students use to get into the Chromebook?
Students will use their email address which is their primary login to their Chromebook. This is their username and an identified password is assigned to each student.

Can the Chromebooks be used with another username?
No. No one can access a district-owned Chromebook with any other login other than their district-assigned email. Chromebooks will only allow for the **@cherokee.k12.ok.us** domain to login. For example, students will not be able log in to their personal Gmail account on a district-provided Chromebook.

How are iPads kept in the classroom?
iPads are checked out to each student, however they are kept in the storage cart in the classroom when not in use. This allows them to charge and secures them in the classroom.

Will unsafe or inappropriate websites be filtered on the devices?
We do our best to ensure our child's online experience is safe. Before each device connects to the Internet, it must pass through district network firewalls and filters. This happens whether the device is browsing on campus on school-owned networks, or off campus using another WiFi router that is providing the Internet connection. Because of security settings built into the device, it must first route it's Internet connection back through our district security settings (firewalls and filters) before any website or online resource is accessible. If your child is using the Chromebook at school, at home or at a public library, it will always pass through our web filtering and network firewall system before they can see or access web content. Our web filters are programmed to block inappropriate content as much as possible.

Can the district track web history?
Yes. The district can track information on what sites students were on, when they were on them, what a student searches for, and how long they were on those sites. Students should only visit sites that are approved by the district and those that are not in violation of the Responsible Use of Technology & Internet Safety Agreement.   Violations of the policy can result in disciplinary action, including the student being suspended from using the school network and device use.

What happens if students have been visiting inappropriate websites?
While we do our best to stay on top of things, some websites are not blocked or are able to bypass our filters. Inappropriate web browsing is a violation of the district Authorized Use Policy and will result in disciplinary action. If you discover any inappropriate activity on the Chromebook, please contact your child's teacher or building administration. Staff will also report any inappropriate activity to the school's administration for disciplinary action. The district does conduct checks of student browsing histories if requested by administration.

What happens if students bypass the school's filters?
Bypassing or trying to bypass the school's filters is a violation of the district Authorized Use Policy and will result in disciplinary action, which could include the removal of Chromebook privileges and/or suspension.

My child forgot to charge their device and their battery runs low during the day.
All middle school and high school students are expected to charge their Chromebooks nightly at home and bring them to school fully charged. However, a charging cable has been placed in every secondary classroom to be used by students that need to charge their devices. It is the teacher's discretion as to how these chargers are to be used in their classroom. Students can also bring their charger to plug in during an appropriate time. If the student's device gets a full charge each night, the device's battery should last all day.

Loner Device
If one is available, students who do not bring a charged Chromebook back to school may be issued a loaner device for the day, which cannot be taken home. Loner Devices would be checked out through the Technology Office in the High School Library.

How should a Chromebook be carried?
Chromebooks should never be transported while open as even gentle handling can damage the screen. Chromebooks should be safely closed before they are taken from classroom to classroom, or to and from school.

What if I don't have internet or internet goes down?
Some Google Apps (Docs, Slides, Sheets, Drawing) will function off-line. Students will need to set this up, prior to being off-line.

What if I don't have internet at home?
The Cherokee Public Library and the Jiffy Trip/Sonic/Subway have public WiFi access. If you are interested in getting low cost internet for your home, go to http://everyoneon.org/.

What happens if the Chromebook and/or power cord is damaged, lost, or stolen?
Students and parents will be responsible for district-owned technology property that is issued to them, just as they are for other district-owned items such as textbooks, calculators, cameras, athletics equipment or library books. The district will repair or replace the issued items, but students and parents will be responsible for some costs.

Acts of intentional damage will not be covered by insurance and the insurance policy is voided.
The Chromebook insurance program is voluntary, but families are **highly encouraged** to participate. If insurance is not purchased at the time of device acceptance, parents/guardians are responsible for the full cost of any repair/replacement of all damage to/loss of the Chromebook, charge cord & case. See 1:1 handbook for typical cost to repair devices.

Insurance Coverage:
If purchased, the CPS Student Technology Insurance Program covers 100% of the **FIRST** incident of damage or loss (including theft**) of the Chromebook, 50% of the **SECOND** incident of damage or loss (including theft**) of the Chromebook from date of issue through start of following school year (e.g. Student is covered from start of 9th grade year issuance through start of 10th grade year when insurance is offered again beginning of 10th grade year). On the **THIRD** incident, the parent is responsible for all repairs/replacement costs. Exact repair/replacement costs will be determined at the time of the repair. Coverage resets each new school year, if insurance is purchased. ****Insurance Claims of Theft must include a completed Cherokee Police Report, signed by a parent.**

Fourth incident will be addressed by the school's administration for disciplinary action and may result in loss of privileges.

*In some circumstances fees may be waived, site administration will be the one to make this determination.

Intentional damage to Chromebooks or iPad:
School administration may be involved if it is suspected to be an intentional act or act of vandalism.
Any damage determined to be intentional will result in a fee for the full cost of the device, which is $269.00 for a Chromebook and $335.00 for an iPad.
Intentional damage is defined as: Student admits to purposely doing the damage, witness sees the damage occur. Examples are:
- the Chromebook or iPad is thrown on a hard surface until it breaks
- a student admits to punching the Chromebook or iPad and breaking it.

Any damage identified to be intentional will also be addressed by the school's administration for disciplinary action and may result in loss of privileges.

How would you go about repairing a device that is not functioning?
Damaged or non-functioning devices should be turned into the library so a repair can be started. A different device will be given to the student and the Administration will determine if an incident fee is to be assessed. Attempting to repair the device at home could result in loss of privileges.

Do repair fees need to be paid up front?
Any fees will need to be paid before the device is returned to the student. Payments will be collected in the High School Office.

What if another student damages my student's device?
In such cases, circumstances will be investigated on a case-by-case basis. School administration may be involved if it is suspected to be an intentional act or act of vandalism.

How much storage do students using Chromebooks have?
Students using Chromebooks will have 16 gigabytes (about 16,000 megabytes) of storage on the machine, plus an unlimited amount of online "cloud" storage that is attached to their Google Apps for Education Account and accessible via the Google Drive application. This should be more than enough space for class work each year. Storage should be used for educational use.

What kind of applications or extensions are on the Chromebook devices?
There are thousands of applications and extensions available for Chromebooks covering a wide variety of topics. The applications and extensions, which run in the Chrome browser, are downloadable through the Chrome Web Store.

What applications will be available on my child's device?
Different applications will appear on student devices depending on what grade the student is in or what classes they are enrolled in. For instance, a student in an biology class at the high school may have different applications on their homescreen than a student who is not in the class. The same goes for online textbooks.

Can students using Chromebooks download applications or extensions ?
No, Teachers can request certain extension or applications be added to the devices that students might need.

Can students using iPads download apps?
No, application installs are managed by the classroom teacher or the CPS technology department.

Does the district block applications or extension?
Yes, the district does block certain applications and extensions from being downloaded and installed to a Chromebook from the Chrome Store. Applications and extensions are reviewed by the district to determine if they are appropriate to be used on the district Chromebooks. The district does reserve the right to remove any application or extension from a Chromebook.

What peripherals can be connected to a device?
- USB storage devices, mice and keyboards (Chromebook Only)
- SD cards (Chromebook Only)
- External monitors and projectors (via HDMI)
- Headphones, earbuds, microphones
- Bluetooth and Wifi enabled devices

How can students submit work or assignments via their devices?
CPS has recommended using Google Classroom. This allows students to receive and submit assignments easily. Also, Google Drive has features built into it that allow work to be "shared" between teachers and even classmates. Students can create documents, spreadsheets, drawings, photos, presentations and even videos. Each item can be "shared" with a teacher prior to its due date. The teacher can then see the work on his or her own computer to review it or grade it for the student.

What if a student is out of school for an extended period (illness, travel, family emergency, etc.)?
With the devices, it will become even easier for students to receive work from their teacher. Assignments, readings, and other resources can be placed online and shared with the student who is absent. The student can do the work online from home and share it back with the teacher. If a student is traveling and does not know if they will return to school or not they should check in their device before they leave on their trip. If the student is out of school for more than 10 consecutive days they are dropped from school enrollment and their account is deactivated. They will not be able to login to a Chromebook.

What if a student is out of school for an out of school suspension? A student's account will remain active for as long as the student is enrolled in the district, this includes when the student is "on" out of school suspension. The student should follow the process above for turning in work that is due.

Can you print from the devices?
No, printing is not available in the district. Digital file sharing between staff and students is one of the great advantages of the devices and is an easy and efficient way to distribute and turn in assignments without printing. It also saves on paper, ink and toner use. Most printing of schoolwork should be done at school. However, we are encouraging staff to try and limit printing of assignments going forward. Printing is available by logging into a computer in the library or computer lab that has access to a district printer if necessary.

Will class lessons ever be recorded so students can review material?
Possibly. Some teachers are looking at different applications to video/audio record specific course lessons and make them available via the web. This would allow students to view recorded lessons and access related materials (handouts, presentations, etc.) online for review or for students who are out of school to not miss a thing. There may even be options for having courses stream live. A student should never record a teacher or their lesson without the approval of the teacher.

Can the devices be used at home?
Yes, if your home has a WiFi network, the devices will have the same filtered web access as they would at school. If you don't have a WiFi network at home, students can still use them, but in a limited capacity. Some applications will work "offline" (such as Google Sheets, Docs, Slides) but content saved to the device will not be backed up online until an Internet connection is available for the device.

Will devices move with an elementary student.
No, devices will stay with the teacher in their classroom..

Can secondary students keep their Chromebooks over the summer?
No. Devices will be turned in at the end of the school year. If a student needs a device for a college class or project they can request a device be checked-out to them.

How long should devices last?
Chromebooks and iPads have very few moving parts in them and generate very little heat. Therefore the life expectancy — so long as they are treated appropriately — is fairly significant. Four years or more is not unrealistic. Additionally, the devices have powerful processors, adequate memory, and automatically update the latest software and security features without anything needing to be done by the student.

Are other districts doing this?
Yes. We've been in contact with other districts around the state that have done one-to-one technology rollouts for students, including using Chromebook and iPad devices. Before our CPS - Connect launch, we've sought advice on how to move forward from other one-to-one districts, learning from them what's worked well and how to avoid certain problems. There are also online resources about one-to-one programs in K-12 schools and we are using tips and advice from those sources, as well.

Can parents use the Chromebooks?
When a student is logged into the Chromebook, parents can use them to check on student work, view their browsing history, check the parent portal or view a the student's email. The Chromebooks are not intended for personal use for the student or their parents. Parents will NOT be able to login to a chromebook with their personal Google Account.

What can you say about eTextbooks? Will they replace traditional texts?
There is a growing number of eTextbooks available for schools to use, whether they are viewed on Chromebooks, iPads, traditional laptops or other devices. eTexts are generally cheaper than hardcover textbooks, are updated at least annually (if not more often), are highly portable (multiple texts one device that weighs less than three pounds), and highly interactive. eTextbooks aren't just black letters on white screen. Often times, text is searchable, citable, linked to other resources, or chapters and lessons have learning activities, videos and photo galleries built right in. They are enhanced with audio, interactivity and multimedia, and they offer tremendous learning advantages to our students. We will still use traditional textbooks in the foreseeable future, but the shift to more eTextbooks will happen.

How can you prevent student copying and/or plagiarism?
There are ways within the software systems we have to check and see if work is copied between students.

Will paper assignments become obsolete?
We can't say we'll never have paper or printed projects or work, but it will become less used as time goes on. This can add up to significant cost savings for the district by using less ink, toner and paper. That's good for the environment, too.

Can my child opt out of having a device?
No. The devices are expected to become an integral part of the education all students receive at the Cherokee Public School District and we want them to take advantage of the powerful learning resources available with it.

Can my child bring his or her own device?
No. We have purchased devices for all of our students and teachers. In order for continuity in the classroom all students need to be using the same device.

Can student work be transferred from their device to another device?
Student applications, emails, bookmarks, documents, presentations and just anything done in the Chrome browser while a student is logged in is available on another Chrome browser on another device when the student logs in with his or her district email address. The content will be the same on the Chromebook as it is, say, on a PC desktop computer, so long as student are using a Chrome browser and their email login.

Data can also be saved to a USB drive and transported between devices.

What about computer viruses getting onto the Chromebook?
Since the applications run through the browser and online, there is little worry about having viruses infect the Chromebook's software or hardware.

What will it cost to charge the Chromebook at home?
The electricity costs should be minimal to families over the school year, and the total cost is based on usage. Below is a formula to help you develop an estimate.

The device draws about 40 watts, according to the manufacturer's specifications.
To estimate electricity usage or kilowatt hours, use this formula:
(Wattage x Hours plugged in per day x number of days per year) / 1000 = kWh

Then multiply the answer by the cost of electricity per kilowatt hour in Oklahoma (about $0.12). That is your estimate for the total annual cost.

If your child uses or charges his/her Chromebook at home (they charge while being used, too) every day after school for one hour, the annual cost to parents is about 80 cents.

(40 watts x 1 hour per day x 180 school days per year) / 1000 = 7.2 kWh
7.2 kWh x $0.12 = $0.86