

Chromebook Background and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Background Information

The focus of providing Chromebooks to Dixon High School students is to provide current tools and resources to the 21st Century Learner. Excellence in education requires that technology be seamlessly integrated throughout the educational program. Increasing access to technology is essential and one of the most economical learning tools is a Chromebook. The individual use of Chromebooks is a way to empower students to maximize their full potential. Individual Chromebook use will also prepare our students for postsecondary education and the modern workplace. According to studies and school reports, students who use a computing device in 1:1 education environment are more organized and engaged learners, attend school more regularly, advance their knowledge and understanding of technology, and become constructors and designers of information and ideas. The Chromebook is a “next generation” device that makes learning more engaging and accessible.

Higher-level learning results from the continuous interaction between students, educators, parents/guardians, and the extended community. Chromebooks and online applications facilitate collaborative learning across all barriers. Technology immersion transforms the teacher from the director of learning to a facilitator of learning. Effective teaching and learning with Chromebooks integrate technology into the curriculum anytime and anywhere.

Why teach and learn in a 1:1 environment and put technology in the hands of every student?

- To access the vast amounts of digital content anytime and anywhere while stretching our students’ learning beyond the classroom
- To transform learning by allowing students to collaborate, create, and personalize their learning
- To engage students with the resources, skills, and knowledge that improve student learning
- To prepare students for college, career, and life experiences in a digital world
- To retain and attract students and employees
- To give our students a competitive edge for jobs by providing educational experiences similar to other districts
- To guarantee equity of access to online tools for all students
- To model digital citizenship and 21st century technology skills
- To increase communication between students, parents, and school
- To provide options for global communication and learning within the classroom

Why use Chromebooks?

- Chromebooks need little, if any, routine maintenance. They are completely web-based so there is no need for downloading or installing programs.
- Chromebooks are less expensive than other devices (iPads, laptops, etc.)
- Chromebooks are an engaging device which could transform the way teachers teach and the way young people learn.
- Chromebooks have long-lasting batteries and connect to the internet within seconds.
- Chromebooks save automatically to the cloud, eliminating lost or forgotten school work.
- Chromebooks are an “anytime and anywhere” learning device. This makes them ideal for projects and learning which take place out of the classroom.
- Chromebooks can be a science lab, literacy tool, research station, history archive, language lab, art canvas, video editing suite, and library.

Chromebook FAQs

1. What is a Chromebook?

“Chromebooks are mobile devices designed specifically for people who live on the web. With a comfortable, full-sized keyboard, large display and clickable trackpad, all-day battery life, lightweight and built-in ability to connect to Wi-Fi, the Chromebook is ideal for anytime, anywhere access to the web. They provide a faster, safer, more secure online experience for people who live on the web, without all the time-consuming, often confusing, high level of maintenance required by typical computers.” (“Google”)

2. What kind of software does a Chromebook run?

“Chromebooks run millions of web-based applications, or web apps, that open right in the browser. You can access web apps by typing their URL into the address bar or by installing them instantly from the Chrome Web Store.” (“Google”)

3. How are these web-based applications managed?

Each Chromebook we provide to students will be a managed device. Members of the Dixon Public Schools Information & Instructional Technology Department will maintain district approved applications

4. What devices can I connect to a Chromebook?

Chromebook can connect to: USB storage, mice and keyboards, SD cards, external monitors, projectors, headsets, earbuds, microphones, Chromecast, and Google compatible printers.

5. Can the Chromebook be used anywhere at any time?

Yes, as long as you have a Wi-Fi signal to access the web. Chrome also offers the ability to work in an "offline" mode.

6. Will our Chromebook have 3G/4G/5G?

No. The district Chromebooks will not have 3G/4G/5G broadband.

7. Do Chromebooks come with Internet Filtering Software?

Yes. Each Chromebook is filtered both on and off school campus.

8. Is there antivirus built into it?

It is not necessary to have antivirus software on Chromebooks because they are not running programs for viruses to infect.

9. Battery life?

Chromebooks have a rated battery life of 8-10 hours. However, we do expect that students charge them each evening to ensure maximum performance during the school day.

10. Can I use my Chromebook at lunch?

Yes, you may use your Chromebook at lunch any time at the high school. However, damage could result from spilling liquids or food. This damage may be deemed accidental, but is not considered normal wear and tear.

11. Can the students bring their own computers from home?

No. Students are required to use the District provided Chromebook as this device filters inappropriate content and also allows staff to view sites being used while in the classroom.

12. Is there a fee for the computer? Will there be a tech fee, liability fee or purposeful damage fees?

There is a \$50 tech fee for high school students and the district is purchasing a full warranty for the computers to cover most types of accidental damage.

13. Will students get the same computer back each year?

We will attempt to provide the same computer to students each year of their high school career.

14. Will there be discipline for students who do not bring their computer to school or do not have it charged?

Yes. If this becomes a chronic issue, progressive discipline will be applied.

15. What is considered normal wear and tear?

It is easier to describe what is not normal wear and tear. Physical damage to the device due to defacement, neglectful or purposeful behavior are not normal wear and tear.

16. If a student takes an AP or Honor class, will they get to keep their computer over the summer?

If necessary we should be able to accommodate a limited number of special requests for needs like these.

17. What is the training protocol for students?

Teachers will provide students an initial introduction to Chromebook features and functionality. As the school year progresses there will be additional opportunities for discovery learning.

18. Are the computers password protected?

Yes

19. Will parents have access to their child's password and login?

Parents will be getting a logon for CANVAS. If there are special circumstances, parent can be provided with their student's credentials.

20. What is 2 factor authentication?

Two factor authentication is a secure means to log on that requires the user to get a text message or other notification when attempting to log on. For now, we will just require students use a basic password.

21. Can you use any charger with the Chromebooks?

The charger provided should be the only charger used to limit the possibility of damaging the device with improper voltage.

22. Will parents receive any Chromebook training?

Yes. A handout detailing Chromebook functionality and features will be provided at the back to school night on August 19. This document will be available on the school website for parents/guardians who are unable to make it to back to school night.

23. Will there be student meetings?

Yes

24. Is there an internet filter on the computer?

Yes, the same internet filter in use at the school will be applied to the Chromebooks no matter where they are used.

25. Will the students be able to clear the history?

Yes, however District Tech staff can review history.

26. Has the district thought about having e-learning days when a snow day occurs?

Recent legislation by the state board of education does permit this opportunity with specific parameters and expectations. These expectations and parameters will be shared with students, parents, and DHS staff during the first semester.

27. Where can parents turn in their sign-off sheets?

The DHS main office, during registration, during parent/student meetings, and during back to school night.

28. Will Chromebook policies and Procedures be available online and can we put a URL link in FAQ documents?

Yes, Chromebook Policies and Procedures will be available online with our student handbook. This FAQ will be posted separately.

29. Will it harm the battery if a student charges their Chromebook overnight? How long will the Chromebooks charge last?

HP Chromebooks are designed to last for 4000 charging cycles. That means they can be plugged in to charge every night, left in for long periods of time, and it won't damage or shorten the battery life. When the battery is completely run down, it will charge to 90% within 90 minutes when plugged in. As noted earlier, when fully charged it can be used for 8-10 hours. Every teacher will not require usage throughout the day.

30. What will happen if there is no available internet where the student lives?

Some files can be saved to the Chromebook at school and be worked on while the device is offline. We will attempt to make loaner hot spots available for students with limited access to the internet away from school.

31. Will it be necessary or possible to increase bandwidth?

We believe we have the proper amount of bandwidth for our needs but we can increase our capacity as needed.

32. Will there be loaner or replacements due to damage or non-working Chromebooks?

Yes, this procedure will be explained to students at the beginning of the school year.

33. How will the athletes be able to secure their Chromebooks during practices?

Students who participate extracurricular activities are expected to secure their device in a locker during home events. During away events students are expected to coordinate with their coaches on an appropriate storage area that can be monitored. Students are encouraged to leave their Chromebook at school in a secured locker if it is not needed to complete homework. Coaches will review expectations for securing Chromebooks and belongings at the beginning of the respective seasons.

34. Will the Chromebooks replace the use physical text books with E-text books?

Over the course of time, we believe fewer physical textbooks will be issued as more electronic resources are used.

35. Describe LMS and how will the kids access CANVAS?

A Learning Management System (LMS) is a software application for the administration, documentation, tracking, reporting, and delivery of educational courses, training programs, or learning and development programs. Students will log on to their Chromebook and then load CANVAS.

36. Will Office Apps and Google Suite be available?

Yes, teachers and students have access to Microsoft 365 and teachers will also be able to use Google Apps if desired.

37. Are we prepared for the requirements for Computer Apps and Drafting classes?

We will maintain traditional desktop labs for courses that require more computing power than Chromebooks provide.

38. Do the Chromebooks have Bluetooth capability? What about interference?

Yes, the Chromebooks have Bluetooth capability. There are no requirements for Bluetooth accessories, so interference should not be an issue for now.

39. Will Lumen stay for gradebook?

Lumen is our gradebook currently. We are looking into syncing grades between CANVAS and Lumen, and will communicate out any changes before they happen.

40. Will students get a carrying bag?

The Dixon Community Trust has graciously chosen to fully sponsor the cost of a protective bag for all Dixon High School students. The bags will have identifiable numbers and student name tags. Students will receive their bag and Chromebook at the beginning of the school year. Students are not permitted to deface the bag in any way. This bag is an additional layer of protection and students are expected to carry their Chromebook in this bag at all times. The protective bag (including shoulder strap) and Chromebook will be turned in at the end of the school year and reissued to the same student the following school year. Students are expected to pay for a replacement bag if theirs has been defaced, damaged (beyond normal wear and tear), or lost.