

# Chromebook Q & A

## **Why does Milan Community Schools believe that a 1:1 program is important?**

We would like to continue our efforts to bring 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning to all Milan students and improve student engagement. Grades 3-5 will be issued a device. The need for consistent access is a priority. Our vision is to achieve academic excellence by blending technology with face-to-face participation and instruction. MCSC teachers will maximize learning, while maintaining a high level of student engagement and teacher collaboration both during and after school.

## **Why Chromebooks?**

Chromebook is the best choice because of the management system and the ease of pushing out apps. to the staff and students. Chromebooks are an affordable Internet appliance that will get students onto the Internet and to utilize the Google Apps suite. Because of their tremendous adoption rates in K-12, we can be assured that Chromebooks will be compatible with major web-based applications moving forward such as the Smarter Balanced Assessments. At the same time, teachers and students are not locked into the device per se, as Google apps can be accessed from PCs, Macs, iPads, Androids, etc.

## **How has Milan Community School Corporation prepared for this initiative?**

For the past two years MCSC has structured professional development around the effective integration of technology. Teachers have received training on a variety of topics including Google Classroom and Google Apps for Education. Also, teachers were given the opportunity to attend free online classes, weekly after-school professional development sessions, and summer sessions for technology training. Teachers were given individual Chromebooks to familiarize themselves prior to student use. MCSC has also strengthened its wireless infrastructure in order to accommodate a 1:1 program.

## **When will this be implemented?**

1 to 1 roll-out is scheduled for August 2015 for Milan Elementary School.

## **Who is responsible for updating the device (software and applications)?**

The Chromebook operating system, Chrome OS, updates itself automatically. Students do not need to manually update their Chromebooks. Chromebooks use the principle of "defense in depth" to provide multiple layers of protection against viruses and malware, including data encryption and verified boot. By logging in with their school email account Chromebooks seamlessly integrate with the Google Apps for Education suite of productivity and collaboration tools. This suite includes Google Docs (word processing), Spreadsheets, Presentations, Drawings, and Forms. Students are allowed to install appropriate Chrome web apps and extensions from the Chrome Web Store. Students are responsible for the web apps and extensions they install on their Chromebooks. The use of inappropriate material will result in disciplinary action.

## **Will MCSC supply my child with any Chromebook accessories, such as a protective case?**

The school will provide protective cases and chargers for all students.

## **In what ways will Chromebooks be used in the classroom?**

It will be up to each member of the MCSC faculty to determine how to incorporate Chromebooks into his or her curriculum.

## **What role will textbooks play in student learning?**

We are currently in a period of transition from sole dependency on textbooks to a digital environment that allows access to a much greater range of educational materials and experiences.

## **Can a student bring in their own device instead?**

No, Milan Community Schools are providing devices. To comply with federal law, we are filtering all content. There is software that must be installed, and licensing dictates it must be on a school-owned device.

## **Can a student "opt out" of getting a device?**

No, all students must (lease) purchase a device since it is an integral part of the educational experience at Milan Community Schools.

**What training and/or support will my child receive?**

Students received training during the 2014-15 school year and will continue training on appropriate use and technical capabilities after they have their own Chromebooks. Students will also learn digital citizenship.

**As a parent, what kinds of limits should I set on my child's "screen time"? How does the Chromebook affect my rules at home?**

We hope that our 1:1 Chromebook program will help students learn and maintain good digital habits that will last a lifetime. Any rules that you have about computer use or Internet access should apply equally to your child's Chromebook use. However, please keep in mind that more class content will be accessed via the Chromebook.

**What are the expectations for me as a parent?**

We expect you to be involved with your student's education just as you always have been. Insist that children properly care for their Chromebook. Please ask the school questions when you are unsure or have concerns.

**Will there be Internet filters on the Chromebooks at school and at Home? Yes****We don't have internet at home, how will my child complete his/her homework?**

Students will have access to Wi-Fi after school at locations around Milan. These locations include Subway, after school tutoring at Milan Schools, Tech Tuesday at the Milan High School Computer Lab from 4:30-7:00 p.m., daily access at the Milan Community Library.

**I can't travel. Can I use the Chromebook if I don't have Wi-Fi access?**

Yes, there are ways to use the Chromebook, even if you don't have Wi-Fi (online) access. Chrome apps: Apps are free-standing "programs" that you can install from the Chrome Web Store. Many apps operate offline. Drive Offline: Google Drive is the folder organization of Google Docs. While Google Docs are online, you can activate Drive Offline, download Docs to your Chromebook's file storage, and work on them offline. This includes editing existing Docs as well as creating new Docs. Then, when you have Wi-Fi access and are back online, Google Drive syncs your files, updating changes and additions you made offline. In addition, students that do not have Wi-Fi access can download videos or materials at school using Wi-Fi and then access them at home when they do not have Wi-Fi connection. This allows students to complete homework without Wi-Fi.

**What happens if my child breaks or loses his or her Chromebook?**

If it is broken or lost, we would refer to our responsible use and insurance policy. If there is misuse/abuse of the device, please refer to the Acceptable Use Policy.

**What happens if a student doesn't bring their device charged?**

Students would either change out their device for that day with a charged Chromebook, or borrow a charger. Chronic abusers will be disciplined.

**Will students keep the device....**

....in the summer? No, all equipment is returned for summer maintenance.

....during breaks? Yes, unless there is a special circumstance or inspection is needed.

....each year? Yes, you will get the same serial # back while at MES.

....after they graduate? No, but students will have an option to buy back the device at the end of the device lifecycle (three years) for \$1.00.

**How much is it going to cost me?**

\$90.00 per year built into your book bill.

**What if I still have questions?**

If you still have questions...

- Visit the Chromebook page on MCSC's website for further information such as announcements, FAQs, tutorials, etc.
- Attend one of our Chromebook meetings held this August.
- Maintain communication with your child or children about what they are currently working on in their classes.