

Southmoreland School District

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Chromebook Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why Chromebooks for the 1:1 device?

Today, with the number of devices available and with the rapidly changing dynamic of technology, school districts must be thinking about a product that is durable, sustainable, and flexible. Google provides a very strong educational platform that includes great work applications and well as excellent support for students and teachers. Providing teachers and students with the same devices allows for the teacher to develop activities that are compatible with the student's devices, and so that teachers can assist students with the tool in the classroom. Through Google accounts, students have access to their work and to materials that are shared in Google anywhere that they go. The Google platform allows the Chromebook to grow with the student and will be supported by Google as technology evolves. The Chromebook that has been selected is one that is a good choice for students as it is designed for plenty of use. The Chromebooks are very cost effective as well.

2. Does the device require a WiFi connection?

The device does require a WiFi connection for full functionality, but the unit is functional without internet access, as Google Drive and Gmail have "offline" access options. When using those tools offline, the work is saved but, for example, email will not be sent until a connection to WiFi is made again. Your child will be taught how to do this during student training.

3. What kinds of safety precautions has the district taken to protect the students when using an internet capable device?

Using a Google Chromebook allows the district to set the security parameters for the devices. As an example, the device will be set with some safe search features to try and filter out unwanted content. Additionally, students are only allowed to send and receive email from the district Google domain. These measures help the district to protect students from unwanted digital communications and internet searches.

4. What if my student breaks the device?

Our experience has been that our students respect the equipment because they like to use it. However, we know that whether adults or students are using technology, accidents do happen. An insurance program has been established to help the district to support families when accidental breakage occurs. The district is providing access to the

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Safeware Insurance program for those who would like that option. The program is affordable and will protect you and the district in the event that the device does break.

5. What if I can not afford the insurance fee to protect the Chromebook?

The most important piece in this program is the concept that all students have the device. Equity is key in our learning. In keeping with this value, the district will work with families to assist them in coverage for the device. However, when a Chromebook is assigned to a student under this program, the family would still be responsible for costs associated with the repair of the device for reasons **not** covered under the Protection Plan.

6. What kind of deviced training will be offered to parents and students regarding the new devices?

The district will convey to parents and students opportunities for training on the devices. Evening programs will be offered for parents to become familiar and to be trained with regard to the devices. Parents will also be able to receive the information through digital methods if they are unable to attend the trainings. Student trainings will be offered during school hours throughout the year. Training and help materials will be added and updated regularly and will be available on our district website under the Google tab.