

Dear CHMS Families (and Incoming Families),

Earlier this year, you received information about the District-wide Digital Learning Environment (DLE) Plan that was approved by the Board of Education. The DLE Plan is a strategic and comprehensive outline of how technology will be provided across District 181 schools, by grade level, including a consistent 1:1 device-to-student ratio in Grades 3-8 and a shared-device environment in Grades K-2. As we near the end of the current school year, I think it is important you are aware of **how the Digital Learning Plan will impact CHMS in 2017-18 and beyond**. Below are a few Frequently Asked Questions I encourage you to review. If you also have a child in Grades K-4, you'll receive a similar message from that school's principal highlighting the impact of DLE at the elementary level. If you would like to learn more about the DLE Plan, a variety of related reports and resources are available on the District website: www.d181.org > [Learning](#) > [Digital Learning](#).

What is the plan for devices in Grades 6-8?

- Students in Grades 6-7 will be in a 1:1 environment, which means each student will have a specific device assigned to them. During the course of the school year, students will be permitted to take their device home to complete homework and to continue their learning and engagement. The device in Grades 6-7 will be a Chromebook. In the first year of implementation, the device will be new or less than two years old. In subsequent years, the device will be purchased new at 6th grade and move with the student for the next two school years.
- Students in Grade 8 will be in a 1:1 environment, as well. For just the 2017-18 school year, 8th graders will use three year-old MacBook Air laptops, which we anticipate will still be in very good condition for the purpose of instruction. Beginning with the 2018-19 school year, all middle school students will use Chromebooks.

Will there be parent learning opportunities related to the Digital Learning Environment Plan?

Yes! In the early fall, there will be opportunities for parents to learn more about how you can most effectively be engaged in digital learning alongside your child. In fact, in the Spring Survey for Parents that is open now, we are asking parents to provide input on topics of

interest for parent learning and how best we can share that information with you (i.e. videos, handouts, school events). Some topics may include "Helping at Home" (i.e. how to help with homework, apps, resources, tools), "Device Protection" (i.e. care and repair protocols) and "Security and Data Protection" (i.e. filtering content). We are committed to working closely with families in building a strong home-school connection around digital learning.

Will our family receive information about procedures and guidelines for digital learning?

We anticipate that early in the fall, all families in Grades 3-8 will receive a new Acceptable Use Agreement outlining important procedures and guidelines. Both a parent/guardian and the student will need to sign the Agreement prior to the student receiving a device from the District.

Are parents being asked to pay a technology fee?

- For the 2017-18 school year, there is no new technology fee. The cost of the District's device lease will be subsidized by the resale of older District-purchased and PTO-purchased iPad and MacBook Air devices.
- For the 2018-19 school year and beyond, some funds will be allocated from the District budget, and there will be a new technology fee. The annual K-2 recommended fee is projected to be \$25 per year; the recommended fee for Grades 3-8 is projected to be \$75 per year. (The fee amounts will be brought forward for Board approval during the 2017-18 school year in time for 2018-19 registration.)

Are there supplies I will need to purchase for 2017-18 specifically for digital learning?

We do not anticipate there will be any supplies parents will need to purchase for 2017-18 specifically for digital learning. The Macbook Airs and Chromebooks for Grades 6-8 will come with a carrying bag and a power cord. Earphones or headphones are already included in the list of standard school supplies to be purchased. Parents may be asked to pay the cost of replacing one of these supplies if the student misplaces them during the course of the school year.

The CHMS staff looks forward to working alongside families during the 2017-18 school year to support the success of all learners. Please stay tuned for much more information about digital learning in the District, as well as opportunities for parent learning and involvement. Thank you in advance for your support!

Sincerely,
Mr. Sonntag