

BDMS FAQs: Chromebooks

1. What is a Chromebook?

Chromebooks are mobile devices designed for anytime, anywhere access to the Intranet. They provide a fast, safe, and secure online experience for people working on the web or in the cloud. It uses the web browser Chrome and Google Applications for Education. The device has limited storage capacity; they are lightweight and very portable.

2. Can the devices be used at home, anywhere at anytime?

Yes, as long as you have a WiFi signal to access the web. The devices will have the same filtered web access they would at school. If you don't have a Wi-Fi network at home, students can still use them, but in a limited capacity. Some applications will work "offline" (such as Google drive) but content saved to the device will not be backed up until an Internet connection is available for the device. Students will also be able to check out portable internet devices on a limited basis. These devices will supply internet connection to their chromebook.

3. How will inappropriate or unsafe websites be filtered on the devices?

We do our best to ensure that our students' online experience is safe. Before each Chromebook connects to the Internet, it must pass through district network filters and firewalls. This happens whether the device is at school, at home or on another Internet connection. Our web filters are programmed to block inappropriate content as much as possible.

4. What happens if students visit unsafe or inappropriate websites?

While we do our best to address inappropriate website usage, unfortunately some websites are difficult to block. Teachers and parents are encouraged to randomly check the browsing history of student Chromebooks on a regular basis. If you discover inappropriate web activity, please contact your child's teacher, building principal or associate principal. Inappropriate web browsing and searching is a violation of the district's authorized use policy and may result in disciplinary action.

5. How do students get their Chromebooks repaired?

If a student is having problems with their Chromebook or notices damage or other issues, they should bring the Chromebook to room 223 at the middle school (Tech Center). Students who are without their device due to repairs may be issued a loaner. There is a \$15 protection plan for each device. This plan will cover costs associated with repairing the device. If the machine is damaged beyond repair the machine might need to be replaced.

6. What happens if the device is lost or damaged beyond repair?

Students and parents may be responsible for the cost of a lost Chromebook or repairs not covered by warranty, the protection plan, or damages due to inappropriate handling and care. The replacement cost to the parent will not exceed \$200.

7. My child forgot to charge their Chromebook before school, now what?

Students are expected to charge their Chromebooks nightly at home and bring them to school fully charged. If one is available, students who do not bring a charged Chromebook back to school may be issued a loaner device for the day.

8. How is one student's Chromebook identified from another student's?

All the Chromebooks are the same, so they look very much alike. However, each Chromebook will be tagged with a label and the student's name on it. Additionally, district asset tags with bar codes will be on each device, and each device has a unique serial number. The district keeps that data, if a Chromebook is misplaced, we can determine who it is assigned to and get it back to the student. Any ID stickers that are on the device when issued must stay with the Chromebook. No additional permanent markings of any kind (stickers, permanent ink pen, tape, engraving, etc.) shall be placed on the Chromebook or its carrying case at any time. While the devices are issued to students, they are still district-owned property.

9. Will devices be kept by students over the summer?

No. Devices will be turned in at the end of the school year so the district can do maintenance on them. Devices will be re-issued to the same student at the start of the school year.

10. Can a student use their own device instead of the school issued chromebook?

Not at this time.