



July 13, 2017

Dear Parents,

Students entering and attending school today will graduate and live in the 21st century, a rapidly changing environment, especially with respect to technology. We believe it our responsibility to prepare students to live, learn and adapt to this ever-changing landscape by preparing them to utilize technology in education, business and industry. Thus, McAllen ISD is developing an innovative teaching and learning STEAM+ framework for increased student academic achievement. It will leverage powerful new technologies, provide new learning opportunities, increase productivity and develop authentic learning processes, challenging students to make a difference.

Like last year, McAllen ISD will not require a fee for the use of any mobile device. *However, students will be responsible for any lost or stolen devices.* Damaged devices will be repaired free of charge as long as **cases provided by the district** are not removed. The cost to replace a Chromebook is \$189, and the cost to replace an iPad is \$294. Lost chargers will need to be purchased by parent, a Chromebook charger is \$13.00, an iPad charging block is 17.50 and the USB cord is 17.50.

Chromebook devices (for grades 6th-12th) are managed by McAllen ISD and can only be accessed with a Google Apps for Education account ending in @students.mcallenisd.net. This should deter any person outside the district from stealing it, since they won't be able log in to the Chromebook. Upon notification that a device is lost or stolen, it can be locked to prevent anyone accessing it until returned to McAllen ISD.

iPad devices (for grades PK-5th) will also be managed by McAllen ISD. Students will no longer be required to sign in with an Apple ID, thus eliminating the need for a family to create an iTunes account. Instead, a McAllen ISD App Store will be available to download teacher-selected apps. A technology parent advisory committee also meets to survey apps that students have access to.

McAllen ISD devices are provided so that students have access to digital textbooks, cloud-based services like Google Docs, Google Slides, Google Classroom and eBooks. It is our priority that every student has the necessary tools to communicate and collaborate while being challenged to think creatively and critically. Students are expected to bring their devices fully charged to school every day.

Sincerely,

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