Dear Parents and Friends,

Thanks to the generous 2018 Auction donors, we raised $38,000 during our "Paddle Raise" for student Chromebooks.

Why Chromebooks? Why 1:1?

The skills and abilities needed by workers in the 21st Century are different than the skills and abilities needed by preceding generations. As such, the makeup of a 21st Century classroom has also changed. Our 1:1 initiative is a part of the changing educational landscape in schools across the country, and will support student learning both at home and school. The 1:1 environment will:

- ***Support an innovative delivery model.*** In combination with teacher presentation stations, Chromebooks allow access to a wide variety of medium for whole group instruction, small group activities, and independent learning. Interactive, visual, and auditory material engages students in their education. ⌷

- ***Compliment service project-based learning.*** Project-based learning presents students with a *real-world* question or problem and leaves room for open-ended answers and solutions. The projects may be authentic or simulated. 24-7 access to the wide variety of resources encourages deeper research and supports a polished presentation of findings. ⌷

- ***Broaden learning beyond the classroom.*** Unlike

a static textbook, one-to-one learning provides students with access to a multitude of online resources. Learners can access both historic and current information and perspectives. The material is available 24-7, encouraging work to be done beyond the traditional school day. ⌞SEP⌟

● ***Prepare students for the workforce.*** Business leaders have expressed a need for employees that are prepared for today's environment. These traits include but are not limited to problem-solvers, multi-taskers, innovators, effective collaborators, and a workforce that is globally aware, and technically proficient. ⌞SEP⌟

● ***Develop thinking skills for the 21st century.*** Use of Chromebooks makes it possible for teachers to work towards student development in 21st Century Learning (Life and Career Skills, Learning and Innovation Skills, Information, Media, and Technology Skills). ⌞SEP⌟
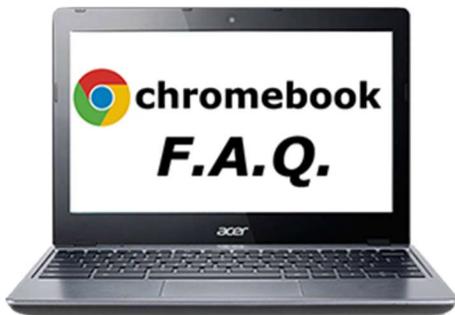
Device Description

What is a Chromebook?

Running on an operating system created and maintained by Google, "Chromebooks are mobile devices designed specifically for people who use web services and applications. With a comfortable, full-sized keyboard, large display and clickable track

pad, all day battery life, lightweight and built-in ability to connect to Wi-Fi and mobile broadband networks, the Chromebook is ideal for anytime, anywhere access to the web. They provide a faster, safer, more secure online experience for people who live on the web, without all the time-consuming, often confusing, high level of maintenance required by typical computers." (Google)

What kind of software does a Chromebook run?

"Chromebooks run web-based applications, or web apps, that open right in the browser. You can access web apps by typing their URL into the address bar or by installing them instantly from the Chrome Web Store." (Google)

How are these web-based applications managed?

Each Chromebook we provide to students will be a managed device. Members of St. Rita Catholic School will maintain devices through our Google Apps for Education account. As such, the school can pre-install web applications as well as block specific web-applications from a centralized management console.

What devices can I connect to a Chromebook?

Chromebooks can connect to: ● USB storage, mice and keyboards ● SD cards ● External monitors and projectors ● Headsets, ear sets, microphones

Can the Chromebook be used anywhere at anytime?

Yes, at St Rita, the students can use the Chromebook at times that are educationally appropriate using a Wi-Fi signal to access the web. Chrome offers the ability through Apps so users can work in an "offline" mode if Wi-Fi is unavailable.

Will our Chromebook have internal broadband?

No. St. Rita Catholic School Chromebooks will not have internal broadband, and must be connected to Wi-Fi.

Do Chromebooks come with Internet Filtering Software?

Yes, Chromebooks will have a content filter and monitoring software installed that will help keep them safe both onsite. While the Chromebooks are on campus, all Internet traffic goes through St. Rita's firewall and Internet Filter.

Is there antivirus built into it?

It is not necessary to have antivirus software on Chromebooks because there are no running programs for viruses to infect.

What about computer viruses getting onto the Chromebook?

Since the applications run through the browser and online, there is little worry about having viruses infect the Chromebook's software or hardware.

What is the battery life like?

Chromebooks have a rated battery life of 9 hours. However, we do expect that students charge them at the end of each day to ensure maximum performance during the school day.

How often does the Chromebook need to be charged?

Students are expected to fully charge the Chromebook each afternoon, which should provide sufficient battery life to use the device throughout the school day. Students should also try to preserve battery power during the school day by lowering the lid whenever the computer is not in use.

Can my student install software on the Chromebook?

The Chromebook is a web-based device that does not allow for software to be installed. Students will access web-based applications at school, although some features are also available for use 'offline'.

Can student work be transferred from their Chromebook to

another device?

Student applications, emails, bookmarks, documents, presentations and just anything saved in Google Drive while a student is logged in is available on another device when the student logs in with his or her school email address. The content will be the same on the Chromebook as it is, say, on a PC desktop computer, so long as student are using Google Drive and their email login. You can access Google Drive website from Firefox and Safari. Data can also be saved to a USB drive and transported between devices.

How can students submit work or assignments via their devices?

Yes via shared. Teachers will utilize Google Classroom for submitting work to their teacher. Google Drive has features built into it that allow work to be "shared" between teachers and even classmates. Students can create documents, spreadsheets, drawings, photos, presentations and even videos. Each item can be "shared" with a teacher prior to its due date. The teacher can then see the work on his or her own computer to review it or grade it for the student.

What kind of applications are on the devices?

Generally, the school selects which of the thousands of apps available for Chromebooks are available for student use. The apps, which run in the Chrome browser, are loaded through the Chrome Web Store.

Can students load apps?

No. Student access to the web store is limited. Apps will be "pushed out" via the administrative Google Console. Different applications will appear on student devices depending on what grade the student is in or what classes they are enrolled in.

What is the life expectancy?

Chromebooks have very few moving parts in them and generate very little heat. Therefore the life expectancy — so long as they are treated appropriately — is fairly significant. Five years or more is not unrealistic, although operating system support generally ends after a term of 4 years. Additionally, the devices have powerful processors, adequate memory, and automatically update the latest software and security features without anything needing to be done by the student.

Questions Specific to Our Chromebook Program

What's the timeline for distributing Chromebooks this fall?

This year's goal is to put Chromebooks into the hands of students as early in the year as possible. With the funds raised at the Auction we were able to purchase 3 classroom sets of Chromebooks for 5th and 6th grade Language Arts. At the beginning of next year we are hoping to have Chromebooks in all the middle school classes. A mandatory parent meeting, acknowledgement of the receipt of our FAQs and Chromebook Handbooks, as well as parent and student consent to our Technology and Chromebook Acceptable Use Policies will be required to receive a Chromebook. Students will also be required to have a carrying case with a strap to be handed with their Chromebook. The goal will always be to have them handed out in the first month of school.

Can my child opt out of having a Chromebook?

No. Chromebooks are expected to become an integral part of the education all students receive at St. Rita Catholic School and we want them to take advantage of the powerful learning resources available with it.

What items will students be receiving?

Students will be receiving a Chromebook laptop (Dell 11:3189). These items will be assigned to each student for their use at

school, and they must be returned at the end of the school year. Failure to return any of these items will result in the student being billed the full cost of the missing item. Next year students will receive the same device each year they are enrolled at St. Rita Catholic School.

What is the cost to participate in the Chromebook program?

The cost of participation in the Chromebook program is factored into the technology portion of the enrollment fees. Other than any costs associated with the repair or replacement of a Chromebook due to inappropriate use, loss, or neglect, there are no additional fees.

Will the Chromebooks ever leave the building?

Middle school students (grades 5-8) will not be allowed to take the Chromebooks home for school-related use.

Can students change the appearance of their Chromebook?

Students are not allowed to do anything to the computer that permanently alters it in any way. The Chromebook is school property and should be treated as such. Intentionally defacing the device will be treated as a disciplinary offense.

Are textbooks being replaced with online textbooks?

St. Rita Catholic School will continue using their current textbooks at this time. Several courses have access to online materials from the textbook manufactures and will be used where appropriate. Having a laptop will allow the teacher to utilize a broad range of online resources and materials, which may mitigate textbook usage.

Will paper assignments become obsolete?

It cannot be said that paper or printed projects or work will become obsolete, but this method may become replaced in

certain circumstances. This can add up to significant cost savings for the school by using less ink, toner, and paper, as well as it is helpful for the environment.

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

All the Chromebooks are the same, so they look very much alike. However, each Chromebook will be tagged with a sticker with the student's name and student ID number on it. Additionally, asset tags with barcodes will be on each device and each device has a serial number. Any ID stickers that are on the Chromebook when issued must stay on the Chromebook. No additional permanent markings of any kind (stickers, engraving, permanent ink pen, tape, etc.) shall be placed on the Chromebook at any time. Also, once a student logs into a device, it is recorded into the Google Admin console and will show the student's digital id when Chromebook is turned on..

Will unsafe or inappropriate websites be filtered on the devices?

We do our best to ensure our students' online experiences are safe. Before each Chromebook device connects to the Internet, it must pass through school network firewalls and filters. If your child is using the Chromebook at school it will always pass through our web filtering and network firewall system before they can see or access web content.

What happens if students have been visiting inappropriate websites?

While we do our best to stay on top of things, some websites are not blocked or are able to bypass our filters. Teachers are encouraged to randomly check the browsing history of student Chromebooks on a regular basis. Browsing histories cannot be deleted by the students. If you discover any inappropriate web activity, please contact your child's teacher, Assistant Principal, or Technology Department. Inappropriate web browsing is a

violation of the school Authorized Use Policy and may result in disciplinary action. ***If a student accidentally accessed inappropriate material, he or she should immediately report this to the supervising teacher, or to the Assistant Principal at*** *mwixted@strita.net*.

Can the school track web history?

Yes. The school can track information on what sites students were on, when they were on them, and how long they were on those sites. Students should only visit sites that are appropriate to school and those that are not in violation of the Acceptable Use Policy. Violations of the policy can result in disciplinary action, including the student being suspended from using the school network and device use.

Carrying & Care

What happens if a student loses the Chromebook?

Students may have access to a limited number of 'loaner' computers that are available from the Technology Department. Students repeatedly failing to bring the Chromebook back at the end of the school day could result in disciplinary action.

What happens if a student misplaces the Chromebook during the school day?

Chromebooks left in bags unattended in classrooms or other areas considered "unattended" will be collected and held by faculty or staff as a protection against theft and damaged, with the following procedures:

Device(s) turned in to Assistant Principal ☐

Assistant Principal has a conference with the student ☐

Instance is documented, and communication is sent to parent(s) ☐

Individual behavioral consequences will be handled on a case by case basis □

What happens if the device is damaged or lost?

Report your damaged or lost device to your homeroom teacher. Homeroom teacher will notify the Technology Department. Students and parents will be responsible for school-owned technology property that is issued to them, just as they are for other school-owned items such as textbooks, calculators, cameras, athletics equipment or library books.

What is the cost if the device is damaged, lost or stolen?

All repairs and replacement parts will be provided by St. Rita Catholic School. Families are not able to provide their own replacement parts or labor. After a first incident of damage, if the damage is covered by warranty or insurance, no cost will be assessed to the family. Additional damages, or non-covered damages are assessed as follows:

Fully Replace Damaged Chromebook--$ 300.00 Replacing Screen--$ 180.00□Replacing Keyboard/touchpad--$ 75.00. Other replacement parts - 100% of cost to St. Rita Catholic School

What is the best way to clean the screen?

Use a soft, dry, lint-free cloth when cleaning the computer. If necessary, the cloth may be dampened slightly to assist in the cleaning areas that do not appear to be coming clean with the dry cloth.

Where should students store their Chromebooks when they are not in class (PE, lunch, practice, etc.)?□Students need to keep their computers in a secured location at all times when unsupervised. At school, teachers will designate areas for Chromebook storage.

How will a student carry their Chromebook?

Chromebooks should never be transported while open as even gentle handling can damage the screen. Chromebooks should be safely closed and placed in a handled carrying case before they are taken from classroom to classroom.

What if I have an Issue?

Where can you get an Internet connection if the building's wireless connection is not working? The devices will only connect to the web wirelessly. If the school's Wi-Fi network is down during school, the Chromebooks will not have connectivity to the web. However, some features, such as access to the student's Google Drive, will still work on a limited basis. The work that is done offline will be backed up once a wireless Internet connection is restored.

What login will students use to get into the device operating system?

Students will each have an email address that is their primary login and username. Students can change their password, but they cannot change their username. The school administration can reset passwords if needed.

What if another student damages my student's device?

In such cases, circumstances will be investigated on a case-by-case basis. School administration and the Technology Department may be involved if it is suspected to an intentional act or act of vandalism.

How would you go about repairing a laptop that is not functioning?

The homeroom teacher will provide a means to report damaged or non-functioning devices to the Technology Department. Once reported, damaged or non-functioning devices will be turned in to the Technology Department so a repair can be started. School technology staff members can repair many problems in-house,

which may take a day or two. Other problems may require the devices being sent out for repair, which can take a several days or perhaps longer.

Students who are without their device due to repairs will be issued a loaner. Loaner devices must be returned to the Technology Department upon request.

Do repair fees need to be paid up front?

Paying for repairs is preferred to be done up front, but in certain situations arrangements can be made for payment plans so students can continue using their device.