



# **HS BYO-Chromebook FAQ**

## **Can you require families to buy a computer?**

- We say “required” because it will be used to access our online textbooks, research projects and assignments. Potentially, students could go without one but may fall behind and spend more time at home working or have to wait until a device becomes available. If this is an absolute burden, there will be some school computers you may check out for the year for a fee.
- Many Public schools across the country are pursuing this model as funding gets tighter but demands keep growing.

## **Why did you choose the BYO-Chromebook model?**

- Having families share the investment allows us to concentrate our funds on infrastructure.
- Almost 40% of Public schools in the US are using a BYOD program and have found great success in student engagement and skills.
- This not only gives your child a sense of ownership and responsibility but also provides a powerful tool to use on and off campus.

## **We have a Windows or Mac laptop at home already, why can't we use that?**

- While it is nationally supported and popular, A BYOD program challenges our own policy and federal compliance with COPPA and CIPA. Both government regulations help protect your child while being online. Personal computers present large holes in these policies. We feel all of our students' information and their privacy is paramount.
- For most, this will be their first laptop, others may use their personal one at home or for special projects upon request.
- Chromebooks and Google Apps for Education (GAFE) ensure your child's information is safe and secure (pending proper passwords and etiquette) <https://www.google.com/edu/trust/>
- A lost, stolen or damaged Chromebook can be remotely wiped and replaced with all data and Chromebook information intact in Google Cloud. All students get unlimited Google Drive Cloud Storage. All student accounts, GAFE and Drive data remains in the Domain of LMS.
- Windows and Macs are perfectly fine for your home but offer many complications in a school environment at this time:
  - Expensive repairs in case of accident
  - Battery life (PC's in particular)
  - Anti-virus software maintenance can be costly

### **Why a Chromebook?**

- Fast boot time (8 sec), durable, minimal service, long battery life (8+hours)
- Full size keyboard (vs-phone, tablet) helps establish proper typing skills.
- Safe and secure- real-time automatic updates to prevent viruses, malware etc.
- Easily managed in classroom
- Seamless User switching : Home / School account
- Minimal cost : ½ the cost of a Tablet, PS4 or Xbox and only a little more than Graphing Calculator
- It should last the entirety of his/her HS career
- This year, Chromebooks have outpaced all other laptop choices in the K-12 environment because of their versatility and cost.

### **What is a GAFE management license and do we need to purchase one?**

- A GAFE Management License (one time \$25.00) is the ability to manage the device and monitor student use at school through an enterprise management console. We can also use this tool to put the device into a "test mode" to comply with a variety of online-based assessment tools or upcoming online state standardized tests. We can also deactivate the Chromebook if lost or stolen rendering it useless to anyone else.
- At this time, we will not be requiring the purchase of a GAFE License but may implement it in later years unless deemed necessary by the administration as a disciplinary action. Computers loaned to students for a fee will have this GAFE Management License on it.

### **What's the difference between a 1:1 and a BYOD?**

- A 1:1 refers to school issued devices for every student. This is not a sustainable model given our Charter funding. A BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) opens the campus up to student owned devices. Typically a BYOD includes mobile phones and tablets but nationally that is being refined every year as its impacts are still being studied. This would also be in direct violation of our current cell-phone policy.

### **Digital textbooks on Chromebook - How will the books comply with publishers restrictions?**

- This is worked out at the department level, however most publishers are offering a web browser version and are not limiting it to device specific software.

Article from *Wall Street Journal* in 2011 (today's numbers are even higher) highlights the national woes of fees and requirements in Public Schools:

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424052748703864204576313572363698678>