



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, please see our Payment plan options or see Administration.
- Many Public schools across the country are pursuing this model as funding gets tighter but demands keep growing.

Why is this information coming so late in the summer?

- We are very aware this can be inconvenient and is late notice but we had a lot of deliberation on how this would impact our HS program and wanted to be confident this was the path we wanted to follow. Waiting another year to push this through would not be in the best interest of the students’ success.
- We also knew this would have a major impact on our current network and needed to make some costly upgrades to better support this program. Until this investment was secured, we didn’t want anyone else to invest. There will be ongoing refinements to ensure everyone has a stable and secure wireless access throughout the year.
- The financial burden on short notice was our biggest concern. Our choice of device (Chromebooks) and an optional payment plan was our best option to lessen the impact on all the families knowing this is a once in a HS career investment.
- Much of the technology policy needed to be revised and approved before we could launch this program. Until these changes were officially made, we did not want to release any information.

My 3 children do not qualify for the free/reduced lunch program, Does this mean I will have to buy 3 chromebooks that I can’t afford . . . even on the payment plan?

- We will work with individual families to meet financial needs. Please work with your school’s administration if there are financial challenges.

Why did you choose the BYO-Chromebook model?

- Having families share the investment allows us to concentrate our funds on infrastructure. We are extending to all, a payment plan for pre-ordered chromebooks.

- 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.
- We can service most of the Lenovo N series and other Chromebooks in-house here at LMS. The replacement parts are typically less expensive compared to any other laptop.
- 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 costl

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. If you would like to voluntarily enroll into the LMS management console you are more than welcome. There are many valuable benefits and the device unenrolled at any time.

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 it's 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.

What if we move or transfer out within the first quarter and don't need our Chromebook?

- We may extend a buy-back program that will be good up until the end of the first quarter for those who pre-ordered through LMS and pending an inspection of the Lenovo N42 Chromebook. This is up to the discretion of the Tech Administrator and School Administration. The value will be determined based on condition.

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>