



ST. MARK SCHOOL
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St. Mark School

1:1 Chromebook Program Frequently Asked Questions

How can a Chromebook be used for education?

Chromebooks are an incredible tool in any classroom. Classes may utilize Chromebooks to access Internet resources, to refine student skills with individualized programs, to take digital notes and create presentations, videos, websites, etc. through a variety of outlets. Students are able to collaborate on documents using their student Google accounts as well as have regular access to a variety of educational programs.

Why is St. Mark School utilizing Chromebooks for a 1:1 program?

Having a 1:1 program allows students to have the capacity to make their learning environment more compatible with the technology many experience on a daily basis outside of the school day. Chromebooks allow students to complete work independently and collaboratively with peers and teachers.

Which grades participate in the 1:1 Chromebook program?

At St. Mark's, students in grades 6-8 will each have their own Chromebook during the school day. Our grade 5 students will have access to Chromebooks shared between homerooms. In the elementary grades, students will have access to iPad stations in their classrooms.

How will the Chromebook benefit students in the PRIDE program?

Having a Chromebook will help all of our students to keep notes and projects organized electronically. Work is less likely to be 'lost' because it will all be stored and regularly saved through Google accounts. PRIDE students will utilize differentiated programs and lessons to meet the needs to individualized learning plans.

Will Chromebooks be integrated into Special classes?

As with any of our academic courses, teachers in classes like art, PE, music, or Spanish are able to utilize the Chromebooks for lessons with students. Students should take Chromebooks with them, along with their backpack, to all Special classes (and for PE they should be hanging on designated hallway hooks).

What is the cost of a Chromebook for my student?

Through our recently awarded Knott Grant and the technology fee as a part of tuition, students are provided a Chromebook by St. Mark School for use during the school day for the duration of their school year. It stays on school property and students are expected to adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy and Chromebook Policies and Procedures Handbook that are provided for students at families at the

beginning of the year. Any loss, destruction, or damage beyond reasonable expectations will result in the student's family replacing the cost of the specified Chromebook (around \$300).

What do families need to provide for the Chromebook program?

All students must have headphones to use with their Chromebook in every class period throughout the school year.

May my child bring a device that we already have and use it instead of the Chromebook?

Students are only permitted to use the designated Chromebook at school. Teachers have training and expertise in functionality of these devices, and these devices are in-line with our expectations for learning in the classroom.

Are textbooks available on student Chromebooks?

Many of our textbook series have some kind of online access or component, so students may be accessing information as directed by teachers. The greater benefit of the Chromebook is that students and teachers are able to reach up-to-date and real-time information beyond what is found in textbooks, so students' knowledge grows beyond a textbook.

How will students take care of Chromebooks?

At the beginning of the school year, homeroom teachers and the Technology Director will set expectations with students with regard to care for their device. Classroom management strategies will help students take responsibility for their own Chromebook within St. Mark School's guidelines. Regular/random inspections of student Chromebooks will determine that care is being taken, and monthly screen cleaning will happen with the Technology Director.

What rules and expectations exist to ensure students are not misusing their Chromebook?

The Acceptable Use Policy in our Student Handbook and the Chromebook Policies and Procedures Handbook outlines the expectations for students with regard to appropriate usage. Disciplinary action may be taken for any misuse of the Chromebook in the classroom.

With so many Chromebooks in the school, how will my child identify their specific device?

All Chromebooks will be numbered, so students will be able to identify their Chromebook through that identification. Additionally, students are encouraged to have their own (appropriate) background images/wallpaper and will use their St. Mark Google account email and password to log into their Chromebook.

Where and when can students use their Chromebooks?

Students are permitted to use their Chromebooks in classrooms of the school building during class time. They are not permitted in the cafeteria, at recess, in the gym, unlocked classrooms, hallways, or coatrooms.

Where are Chromebooks stored during the school day and after school?

During the day, students are expected to have their Chromebooks in their backpacks at all times except when using them during class. With a decrease in the amount of paper in use, students should have room in their backpacks, so long as they are carrying only the books they need for any given portion of the day. At the end of each day, students will return their Chromebooks to charging stations for keeping overnight. It is the student's responsibility to plug in their Chromebook to charge, and homeroom teachers will take responsibility for locking each charging station.

Will internet sources be filtered or on "safe search"?

Because Chromebooks are on the St. Mark wifi networks, all existing firewalls and protections will apply to Chromebook usage.

Can students print assignments from the Chromebook?

Students will be permitted to print with a teacher's permission. In demonstrating our Green School status, students and teachers are encouraged to exchange as much work electronically as possible. If a student is given an assignment and is told to print it at home, that is their responsibility, unless otherwise discussed between the Technology Director and a student's parent.

What happens if a student accidentally takes their Chromebook home?

It is imperative that students have their Chromebook in school with them for work, and it is our expectation that it never leaves the St. Mark School property. If a student accidentally takes home their Chromebook, they should immediately inform their homeroom teacher and the Technology Director.

What happens if a student breaks or loses their Chromebook? Will students get another Chromebook to use if theirs is broken or unable to be used for some other reason?

If a problem occurs with a student Chromebook, we have a limited number available to be temporarily signed out for the day. It should NOT be a regular occurrence that students need to borrow a Chromebook, because of the expectations and procedures we have set forth, but minor issues will be addressed by the Technology Director, and administrators, as necessary.

When and where can students use the camera on the Chromebook? Should the camera be disabled?

The camera is a valuable tool for project-based learning and to capture screenshots, notes, and other resources. Camera use for photographs/videos is prohibited at school unless students are asked by teachers to take pictures for a school project. It is against our policy for students to take pictures of someone else without their permission and a faculty/staff member's permission for the project at hand. Camera and video use can be restricted/disabled at any time.

Will the Chromebooks stay charged for the whole day?

The Chromebooks have a battery life of 6.5 hours, so if a student plugs in their Chromebook at the end of every day, there should be ample battery life for all class period.

What if I don't want my son or daughter to use a Chromebook?

As a school, our administrative team has worked with the Technology Director and Archdiocese of Baltimore technology experts to determine that Chromebooks are the greatest benefit to our students' learning. Through our use with shared Chromebooks in the past, we are confident that the 1:1 Chromebook program will be of greatest benefit to all students.

What if my child does not have (or has limited) access to a computer outside of school?

As in previous years at St. Mark School, we are understanding of differing access to technology for homework and projects outside of the school building, and are willing to work with families on an as-needed basis to ensure students are able to complete their work. As a general policy, taking a Chromebook out of the school building will not be an option.

Who can I contact if I have more questions?

For questions, please contact the Technology Director, Meghan Williams (mwienecke@stmark-school.org) or the Principal, Stephanie Rattell (srattell@stmark-school.org).