Jr. High Chromebook Information

Your child will be issued a Chromebook computer within the first few weeks of the school year. We will ask that both student and parent/guardian sign the Technology Responsible Use Policy Form and return it to the school with the payment of all associated fees.

Cost

Each Chromebook device represents an initial investment by IHM of $380 per student.
We purchased 200 of Levono N22 Touch devices at the beginning of the 2016-17 school year, one for each middle-school student. The initial cost was possible through a grant from our IHM Parent-Teacher Organization. We also received a Technology Grant to help cover the costs. We have partnered with the Promevo Company to procure the hardware, software, training and support for this project. In April, 2017, Lenovo replaced all 200 of the N22 devices with N23 devices due to manufacturer defects.

Parents assume all responsibility for replacing a lost or damaged Chromebook device.
IHM **will not** offer an accidental damage insurance policy this year. Note that the student will pick up his/her assigned Chromebook from the homeroom in the morning, control it throughout the day, and return to the security/charging cart at the end of the school day. Please note that the Chromebook, although designed for the classroom environment, is "fragile."

Negligence includes placing heavy objects (i.e. books) on top of the computer, dropping the computer, and any damage that results from the student having removed the computer from its protective case. or not properly securing the computer in its case (leaving zipper opened for example.)

The damage we have experienced over the last years almost always resulted from the student's rough handling of the device. For example, the LCD touch-screens are delicate, and a simple drop, or placing heavy objects on top of the device can cause a cracked screen. In several cases, the student placed an object, such as ink pen, on the keyboard and then closed the screen, causing the pen to puncture the LCD.

Additional costs for the 1:1 Program:

In 2019-2020 school year, all Chromebook users (6-7-8 grade) will pay a $25 Chromebook fee. This fee will go toward maintaining our 1:1 technology program.

In addition to the $25 Chromebook fee, all school students will pay a $25 Technology Fee to help offset the expenses of our technology program.

FAQs

Why a 1:1 Device Program?

Our students and faculty members have witnessed first-hand the benefits of educational technology, or eLearning, in the classroom through the use of desktop computer labs, laptop carts, Ipad carts, classroom projectors, student response systems, classroom websites, cloud file sharing, and more. We had permitted a "bring your own device" program for using technology in the classroom, but learned that the administrative, logistical, and security issues were significant. In August 2016 we added the use of Google Chromebooks to our technology, thereby disallowing "bring your own device". Studies and other school's experience have shown the benefit of a *1:1 device program.* After research and study, our Technology Committee recommended the implementation of Chromebooks for all middle-school students. This 1:1 program consists of each student having his or her own electronic device available for individual, academic use both here at school and at home.

Why Chromebooks?

A Chromebook is a device meant for primarily working with Internet-based resources. It is fast and light, making it easy to use and carry. The device is relatively inexpensive compared to other technologies on the market, yet it is easy to support while providing 8+ hours of battery life. It connects with Google's suite of applications which have been used by every student and staff member at our feeder high school, St Henry, for several years now.

Chromebooks are currently used by more than 5,000 U.S. school districts (1 in 5 schools). Also, 7 out of the 8 Ivy League universities, as well as 72 of the top 100 U.S. colleges and universities, are Google Apps for Educations institutions, including the University of Kentucky, University of Louisville, and University of Dayton.

Key factors that were taken into consideration when making the decision to implement the use of Chromebooks for all students include:

- Providing all students within a grade level the same opportunity to access a vast array of web-based resources;
- The ability for Chromebooks to natively and seamlessly integrate with Google Apps for Education, which is our platform for communication and collaboration—and which is provided to the school at no cost by Google;
- Our Chromebooks come with an integrated keyboard, touch screen, and mouse pad, which makes creating projects online easier for many students;
- Chromebooks can be easily managed and student use can be monitored 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. And, we use the gScholar application that allows a teacher to monitor all student activity on the device;

- The Chromebook's operating system self-updates, yet we maintain the ability to push out applications and tools to our students;
- The Chrome Operating System does not require anti-virus software;
- Chromebooks offer a full-featured browser for working on the Internet which includes support for Adobe Flash, a requirement for many online resources;
- Although files can be stored on a Chromebook, all work is ultimately backed up to the cloud. As a result, a student will rarely, if ever, lose their work. And, if a device stops working, another Chromebook can be substituted and the student can continue working as if they were on their original device; and
- Chromebooks come with the ability to add external storage through USB flash drives or SD cards. So, students can pull-in and access work completed on other Windows, Mac, or Linux based systems and still store and work with large files that do not easily store on a mobile device or in the cloud.

Will a Chromebook run MS Office?

Yes, however students, faculty, and staff currently use Google Apps and we will continue to encourage the use of the G Suite for Education (formerly Google Apps for Education) for all word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, and other needs. If a user knows the basics of MS Office, they will know how to use Google Docs...and vice versa. We believe that encouraging the use of cloud (internet) based apps is an important 21st-century skill our students should have as they move on to college.   It is very likely that the student will also be exposed to, and learn, Microsoft Office applications as part of their Computer Lab work (PC based).

How are restrictions and filtering different at school versus at home?

The School will have in place certain security measures for the Chromebook. Application and extension installation will be restricted at school as well as internet content filtering. While we have strict protocols in place, they are not perfect. A knowledgeable student can find ways to circumvent our security and use protocols, which is a violation of our policy and will result in disciplinary action. Such circumventions include, but are not limited to, streaming music or videos, or playing games on the Chromebook.

If (when) a student logs into his/her Google account at home, parents must provide proper monitoring and security.

In 2019, we partnered with BARK, a software service that helps us to monitor student activity on their account. This software screens student activity, and alerts the school administration in areas, including profanity, violence, bullying, sexual content, and suicidal idealization. In some cases, parents would also be notified. We take student safety very seriously here at IHM and will be relentless in monitoring dangerous activity. Parents are provided (and we strongly encourage) the capability to further monitor their child's activities using BARK at a greatly reduced cost. The service, once activated by parents, can monitor all the child's internet activity in their various apps, such as Instagram etc.

Who can access and use my student's Chromebook?

Only individuals with an IHM account can access and use a student's Chromebook and Google accounts. If a parent wishes to access their child's Google account, they must login using their child's account. You will not be able to login using other Google based accounts (gmail, etc.) All of the student's stored data will be "in the cloud", individual devices will not store data.

What happens if my student's Chromebook is unavailable for a school day? (e.g. not charged, damaged, missing)

At this time, we do not permit Chromebooks to leave the school building. The student will pick up his/her Chromebook at the start of the school day from the homeroom cart, and return at the end of each day to the homeroom cart. In the event of a Chromebook not being available, at the teacher's request, a student may borrow a Chromebook for use in that particular class.   We have a very limited number of Chromebooks for borrowing. In the end it is the student's responsibility to come to school every day, retrieve their individual device from the secure, charging cart, and return it to the cart every afternoon.

What do we do over summer / long breaks? Does student get to take the device home or does it have to stay at school?

The student will turn in their Chromebook at the end of the school year just like they turn in a text book. The Chromebook will not be allowed to leave the building. We do have protocols in place which will not permit the Chromebook to be used outside of our network. This is necessary for security as well as maintenance tasks.

How will the students use the Chromebook?

Students can use the device for a broad range of experiences and learning opportunities, but in the end that will be determined by each teacher for their particular class. Every class is different and every teacher is different, so some technology that might work for one class will not be effective in another. If a student wishes to use technology for an assignment or for taking notes, he/she will be encouraged to do so under most circumstances.

A few examples of how the device can be used with no additional prep from the instructor:

- Taking notes
- Doing research
- Creating a presentation or video
- Reading a textbook, .PDF, article, or an e-book
- Watching a video assigned by the teacher
- Collaborating with other students on assignments when appropriate

    A few examples of how the device can be used with just a little additional prep from the instructor:

- Taking an online quiz
- Making flashcards
- Participating in an online discussion board
- Creating their own site or wiki

Responsible Use Policy

Each student and parent will sign a responsible use policy statement, which includes permission to use certain services such as Microsoft and Google. This statement outlines expected and acceptable use of these devices. This policy, along with the policy for IHM Technology Rules and Consequences, and the Student Handbook, outlines the acceptable use along with consequences for misuse of the IHM technology. Each parent is asked to review this policy closely with their student. Violations are incremental based upon severity but include payment of damages and expulsion from the school.

Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, negligent damage to a Chromebook will result in the parent reimbursing IHM for a new replacement device up to $399.

All Chromebooks belong to, and will remain, the property of IHM School.