

# **Tri-County North 1:1 Frequently Asked Questions**

## **What is the 1:1 initiative?**

Over the past few years, Tri-County North has invested heavily in increasing the technology available to staff and students. We have upgraded our wireless networks, increased computer lab availability, and provided Google training for staff. We are now ready to take the next step and get a Chromebook into the hands of each student grades 5-12. Students in grades five will keep their Chromebook in their classroom, while grades 6-12 will be able to take the Chromebooks home with them.

All TCN students in grades 5-12 will “lease to own” a district-owned Chromebooks for \$50 a school year. Chromebooks will be distributed on Friday, August 24 after the acceptable use policy has been signed by each student and their parent.

## **Why is Tri-County North giving every student in grades 5-12 a computer?**

This allows us to teach 21st-skills; leading to increased student use of technology in a controlled environment. This initiative helps TCN students compete not only locally, but also in the global economy. TCN has seen an increase in technology usage in the past decade, and this program allows teachers to know that technology is available for their daily lessons, without worrying about whether the mobile lab is available. Computer skills are a necessity in today's economy, and this program enables TCN to teach these skills in a controlled environment while ensuring student safety.

## **How will students be prepared for the responsibility of having their own computing device?**

Students will be responsible for bringing their Chromebook to each class, just as they also know they must bring other classroom materials. Students will be trained in how to care for and protect their devices. Students will also learn about digital citizenship, internet safety, collaborative communication skills and more.

## **Is it required to have internet at home?**

Internet access is not required at home but is helpful since home internet will be more convenient for students. Students are able to stay late after school and get a bus pass if they require internet access to complete an assignment. Students may also utilize free wifi at the Brown Memorial library on Monday through Thursday until 8 pm and Saturdays from 10 am to 3 pm.

## **What will prevent students from accessing inappropriate sites?**

The school has invested in web surveillance and filtering to ensure that the internet accessed on school-issued devices is school appropriate. School administrators are notified through the web-filtering software if inappropriate sites are accessed. While the filtering software is still on, parents are encouraged to monitor student screen time at home and discuss any concerns they have with the school.

### **Can my student use his/her laptop instead of participating in the program?**

No, TCN is working to teach technology usage in a safe, controlled environment. Personal computers not issued by the school do not have the filtering software installed and may not be able to access the schools' network. Additionally, school staff has been trained to troubleshoot issues on the school issued Chromebooks and may not be able to help navigate the programs on other devices.

### **What will the students receive? When will they receive these?**

Each student will receive 1 Chromebook, 1 A/C Power Adapter (Wall Charger), and 1 protective case. These will be distributed on Friday, August 24, after each student has turned in a signed acceptable use policy (AUP) form.

### **Does this mean that students will not have textbooks?**

Students will continue to have textbooks, however, they can expect fewer textbooks in the following years as more and more publishing companies are transitioning to online resources. **It is important to note that the curriculum is not dictated by the textbook.** The textbook is one of many resources used to deliver the curriculum.

### **What will happen if a student does not bring his or her device to school?**

The school has a limited number of loaner devices available for students to borrow. Students are expected to come to class prepared, and students are still expected to complete all classroom assignments. If a student consistently does not come to class prepared, additional consequences may be assigned by a school administrator.

### **What happens if the student loses his/her Chromebook, or it is stolen?**

Students should contact the technology department immediately if they are not able to locate their Chromebook. If the Chromebook is stolen, the student should also file a police report. The school will turn off access to the device so that others can not use it. A loaner device may be issued to the student while the incident is investigated.