

The Future of Education is Here!



An increasing number of schools around the country are moving towards an education platform that involves students having their own classroom device such as tablets or laptops. Chromebooks are growing in popularity for many reasons:

- Configuring the devices is simple
- Little maintenance is required
- Not prone to malware & viruses
- Turns on in 8 seconds
- Battery lasts all day
- Full keyboard
- Lower cost than alternatives

Your St. Gerard Majella School Technology Department has been advancing school-related technology in recent years, such as switching to a fiber network for more reliable connectivity, updating wifi access points in Primary and other building locations to enable wireless access for all, and enabling all 3rd-5th

grade students to use Chromebooks and have Google school accounts.

For this reason, the supply list for 2017-2018 incoming 6th-8th grade students will include a Chromebook.

***Note:** This means that if you have a student currently in 5th, 6th, or 7th grades, they will need a Chromebook next year.

A Chromebook is similar to a laptop, but is an internet-only device.



Benefits of Chromebooks

- Classroom work is able to be done in the Google environment, reducing and sometimes eliminating the need to print homework and assignments.
- Classroom work is automatically stored in the cloud where it is easily accessible for both students and teachers as needed.
- Homework is accessible and can be completed at any time, anywhere.
- Real time interaction within the classroom between teachers, students and classwork.

Chromebook Purchasing:

All 6th-8th grade students will be required to have a Chromebook; other devices will not be allowed. The Acer Chromebook 11 c740 provides all the necessary components and tools for students. The typical lifespan of a Chromebook is 3-5 years.

1-to-1 Chromebook Specifics

1. Acer Chromebook 11, 11.6-Inch, C740-C4PE (Intel[®] Celeron[®], 2GB, 16GB SSD, Black)



This model Chromebook will be purchased in bulk for all registered middle school students. Purchasing a bulk order lowers the price of each unit.

2. 11.6" Work-in Chromebook Case (Targus[®], Black)



We require all Chromebooks to have an adequate carrying case for transport and protection from breakage.



Sample Lesson Plan:

The whole class was simultaneously editing the same Google Slides presentation, with each group responsible for creating one page of a common document.

"I think it's better than writing on paper," said 11-year-old Paul Beltran. "You can see each other's work, you can give suggestions, and if something is wrong, you can help each other."

Midway through the period, Ms. Raspen called upon the groups to present their slides.

"You have access to all this information," the eight-year veteran of the district told her class when the presentation was complete. "Now, I want you to use each other's thinking. What two pieces of evidence from someone else's slide can you use to explain what makes this book awesome?"

Students typed for 10 minutes, then submitted their work via a Google Form (a basic online survey) that Ms. Raspen created. Their responses automatically populated a spreadsheet, which the teacher was already reviewing as her students filed out the door.

In years past, Ms. Raspen said, she taught an analog version of the same lesson. Students worked in groups to create posters, took part in a "gallery walk" around the room, and wrote their book reviews by hand. Editing involved an exchange of paper drafts that could take days.

Chromebooks haven't totally changed the way she teaches, Ms. Raspen said.

But they have made her classroom more efficient, offering more time to get students working together and providing tools that allow her to give more timely and detailed attention to her students' work.

"They get so much more feedback, and they use it so much more than when writing by hand," she said. "It's pretty huge."





Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Is the Chromebook property of St. Gerard Majella School or the student?
The Chromebook is the property of the student if purchased by the parent, however, if the student borrows a school Chromebook it is the property of St. Gerard Majella School.
2. Will St. Gerard Majella School offer loaners for students?
Yes, St. Gerard Majella School will provide loaners but the quantity will be limited and the devices can only be used at school during school hours. The student is responsible for returning the Chromebook to its proper place and connecting the charging cord at the end of the school day. Consequences will be marked on the student's Behavior Card.
3. Will the Chromebooks be used the entirety of 6th-8th grade?
Yes, the Chromebooks will be used by the student during all three years of school. Additional repair insurance, if desired, will need to be purchased for year 3 of the student's tenure at St. Gerard Majella School.
4. Can we purchase a different version of a Chromebook?
It is highly recommended to purchase the Acer Chromebook c740 for the purposes of administrative management, which must be conducted by St. Gerard Majella School regardless of how a student has purchased his/her Chromebook.
5. Can other devices be substituted for the Chromebook?
No, only a Chromebook device will be accepted. No other devices can be used as a substitute.
6. Is there a lot of technology support and maintenance associated with a Chromebook?
No, this is one of several reasons why the technology committee decided to require this device as opposed to other devices.

Additional Resources:

<http://thejournal.com/articles/2013/04/23/thinking-about-chromebooks-heres-everything-you-need-to-know-first.aspx>