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## Student Chromebooks

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Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Starting today, we will be sending Chromebooks home with students in grades 3 - 5. This is part of the District's Coronavirus (COVID-19) strategic planning. Having Chromebooks available to students will assist the District in providing a continuity of learning in the event there is a prolonged school closing. Below is additional information regarding this process, including student expectations and frequently asked questions:

- A Chromebook will be checked out to each student.
- **Students will be asked to bring the Chromebook to and from school each day.**
- Students need to charge the Chromebook each night at home.
- Students can access the Internet via the Chromebook at home. To do so parents connect the Chromebook to their wireless router.

The Internet at home, when accessed on the Chromebooks, will be filtered by the school's firewall and use the school's settings.

- Students **do not have to** use the school issued Chromebooks if a parent would prefer the student use a family device using the family filter settings.
- While the Chromebooks are personally assigned, students must demonstrate good digital citizenship and follow the District's [Acceptable Use Policy](#). Use of the school system's network is not private and the District reserves the right to monitor use to ensure compliance with the Acceptable Use Policy.

Thank you for your continued support during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Anthony Buono, Ph.D.  
Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### How will my child connect to the Internet with the Chromebook at home?

Students will access the Internet by connecting to the wireless at home, but will go through a proxy to our Internet Service Provider through our firewalls. This will be seamless and transparent to the students, thus school settings and filtering will continue on the Chromebook at home.

#### Will there be filtering on the Chromebook while my child is at home?

Students will access the Internet by connecting to the wireless at home, but will go through a proxy to our Internet Service Provider through our firewalls and filters. Specific filtering software will not be placed on the individual machines. Students can always use a family owned computer while at home and use the filtering software and settings of the family's choosing.

#### Can my child use a personal account to log into the school Chromebook when at home?

No, each student must use their school account to login. The Chromebook settings are locked and cannot be altered.

What if I want my child to be able to access different things on the Chromebook like Netflix?

It depends on the program they want to access. If it is blocked at school, no. If anything has to be downloaded or added to the machine, students will not be able to access the program. If the program only requires a browser window and it is not blocked at school, yes.

Our general philosophy for web filtering is summarized below:

For all users, we block content as required under Federal law (i.e., CIPA), as well as content identified by Fortinet to be dangerous to our users/IT infrastructure (e.g., phishing websites or websites disseminating viruses or other malware).

- Teachers and students experience the same level of web filtering.
- Web filtering is less restrictive as the student age increases - thus the elementary level is the most restrictive while high school level is the least.
- Categories which are vague or subjective (e.g., "Discrimination") are allowed when age-appropriate.
- Categories which have moral or political dimensions (e.g., "Sex Education") are allowed when age-appropriate.

Web filtering is performed by our Fortinet firewalls, using two levels of granularity:

- *Categories* - Included in our firewall support package is access to the FortiGuard web filtering service. Fortinet employs both staff and technology to categorize websites throughout the world.
- *URL Filtering* - URL filtering enables us to allow or block a website by its address or URL. This can be used to override categorical filtering for a website, or to block a website which is not categorized.

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