

May 24, 2018

Dear Darien Parents/Guardians:

During 2017-18, the Darien Public Schools completed another significant infusion of technology, including a 1:1 roll-out of Chromebooks for Grade 5 students, and iPads for Grade 9 and 10 students. This letter is to provide information on:

- End-Of-Year and summer procedures for parents and staff
- 1:1 plans for the 2018-19 school year (**Year 3**)
- Policies and guidance related to educational technology for 2018-19

1:1 - 2017-18 End-Of-Year Procedures

Grade 5, 6, 9, & 10:

Current 1:1 students in Grade 5, 6, 9, and 10 should bring their devices home for the summer. Students may continue to use their Chromebook or iPad in alignment with district policies. IT support to fix or repair devices over the summer will be limited. For parents who are moving out of district, you are asked to turn in the device and charger to the school. School transcripts will not be released until all obligations, including the return of devices, is completed.

Parents who do not wish to have devices come home for the summer should return the device to the Library Media Specialist prior to the last day of school.

Grade 7 & 8:

Current 1:1 students in Grade 7 & 8 will turn in their Chromebook at the end of 2017-18 school year. Information on this process will happen at the building level.

Rising 8th Graders will be issued new Chromebooks at the start of the 2018-19 school year. The existing models are being replaced with a ruggedized, touch-screen version.

Rising 9th Graders will be issued an iPad with keyboard case at the start of the 2018-19 school year. Plans are to issue these devices during the Grade 9 Orientation Day in August.

Summer Sign-offs in ASPEN

Grades K-12 (Summer Sign-offs in ASPEN)

All parents need to complete a new Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) agreement and 1:1 loan agreement as part of the 2018-19 sign-offs in ASPEN. (**District Policy 5300**). These forms will be available by August 1, 2018.

Please note that students eligible to participate in the 1:1 program will not be issued a device without completed sign-offs. The district will also suspend digital access for students who do not have completed AUP agreements by **September 15, 2018**.

1:1 Rollout for Grade 5 & 9 - Fall 2018

Rising Grade 5 students will have technology available in the classroom for the start of the 2018-19 school year. Following the completion of digital citizenship lessons and a parent meeting, rising Grade 5 students will be issued a Chromebook for home and school use by the end of September.

Rising Grade 9: Plans are for distribution of iPads on the Orientation Day in August. Students and parents must complete Aspen sign-offs to receive a district-issued iPad on that date.

K-8 Policy regarding bringing personal computers to school

Grades K-8 (Elementary/Middle schools ONLY):

The district discourages students from bringing their own personal Chromebook or other device to school. The district-owned Chromebooks and iPads have been specifically provisioned with access to district resources and subscriptions. They have been outfitted with filtering and other security to protect student data and privacy. Additionally, district-owned devices can be configured to complete required digitally-based state assessments safely and securely.

Personal computers brought in by students do not have the same filtering and protections. Also, state and local testing cannot be completed on personal devices. Lastly, IT staff and teachers cannot devote time to maintaining or troubleshooting privately-owned devices.

For these reasons, the district requires that Grade K-8 students use district-owned Chromebooks for daily instruction at school.

Recommended: Guidance on accessing district resources on home computers

The Darien Public Schools provides digital resources, content filtering, and security whenever a student uses a district-owned computer and the wireless network.

When a student uses their **darienps.org** account from a home *personal* computer, there are limitations. While students do gain access to district resources on the personal home computer, the content filtering and security defaults to what is configured for the home device. Please note that the district cannot provide content filtering or security for privately owned devices.

It is therefore recommended that parents review their settings on their home computers and networks to ensure the appropriate level of security and filtering.

Thank you for your continued support of the technology initiatives of the Darien Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Marc Marin, Director of Instructional Technology

cc: Dr. Dan Brenner, Superintendent of Schools