

December 5, 2016

Dear Darien Parents/Guardians:

This month, the Darien Public Schools will begin issuing Chromebooks for home-school use to students in Grades 5-7; all Grade 4 classrooms now have 1:1 school access only. The 1:1 roll-out across the elementary and middle schools is part of a 4-year digital transition that will increase the available technology as a tool for student learning and growth.

This correspondence is to provide timelines and general information as follow-up to the 1:1 Parent Workshops this Fall. In all, more than 200 parents attended across 8 sessions. Presentation materials are now posted on the district and school websites.

Roll-out Schedule:

The upcoming two-week roll-out will involve the distribution of over 1,100 Chromebooks to Grade 5, 6, and 7 students. The schedule is as follows:

Middlesex Middle School:

Week of December 12- 6th grade (one team per day)

Orange, Red, Silver, Yellow

Week of December 19 - 7th grade (one team per day)

Aqua, Blue, Gold, Purple

Elementary schools: (One school per day)

Friday, December 16 - Hindley Day

Monday, December 19 - Holmes Day

Tuesday, December 20 - Ox Ridge Day

Wednesday, December 21 - Royle Day

Thursday, December 22 - Tokeneke Day

Chromebook Distribution:

Before receiving a Chromebook, the following will be confirmed:

- Completion of Darien 1:1 Course on Digital Citizenship (online ethics, responsibility)
- Confirmation of 1:1 Loan Agreement and User Agreement completion in ASPEN
- Device is inventoried and assigned in ASPEN to the student

If you have not done so, please complete the 1:1 Loan Agreement and User Agreement, which was part of your summer electronic sign-offs in ASPEN. A device will not be issued without the sign-offs in place.

Upon final review, students will be issued a Chromebook, color-coded sleeve, and charger. The sleeve is color-coded by grade level and is meant to be personalized by the student - markers, stickers, etc. The device itself, however, should not be personalized in this way. Grade 5 will have a blue sleeve; Grade 6, red; and Grade 7, black.

New Student Responsibility:

This Fall, students were shown the basic care and maintenance of a Chromebook. A new, critical responsibility will be to ensure the device is properly charged for learning. Battery life is approximately 7 hours. While extra chargers will be available, the general rule is that students without a charged Chromebook will need to use paper and pencil for the day.

If the device is in some way defective or working improperly, please notify the classroom teacher or team leader. Students will be directed to see the Library Media Specialist where a new device can be issued or loaned. During a 1:1 Spring 2016 pilot with 150 students, Chromebooks overall proved reliable with low incidence of repairs and replacement.

Parent Support:

If you have questions about the Chromebook, please share first with the classroom teacher and team leaders. Depending on the question, feedback can be gathered at the building level by teaching staff and Library Media Specialists, or by the Darien IT Support team. I am available as well. Our collective commitment is to a smooth roll-out and proper support for staff, families, students, and devices.

More information will be shared in the new year on upcoming Parent Workshops. For now, I extend best wishes for the holiday season and indulge your patience as we move the district's technology initiative one more step forward.

Best,

Marc Marin, Director of Instructional Technology