

# **Rising Starr Middle School**

## **1:1 Computing Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Why did Rising Starr Middle School decide to pursue 1:1 computing?**

For our students to be competitive in a digital age, they must be comfortable learning in a variety of educational environments. Digital learning does not take the place of traditional learning, but instead it enhances what teachers and students can accomplish in the classroom.

### **Will RSMS still be a BYOT (Bring Your Own Technology) school?**

BYOT is being phased out. Since all students will have an assigned school-owned device, personal devices will no longer be allowed to be visible in the classroom unless there is a specific learning task a teacher may offer for students. Personal devices should be on airplane mode during school hours so as to not tax our wifi network or interrupt student learning. Messages to students can be retrieved before and after school. Emergency messages should go through the front office clerk.

### **If my student or I refuses to sign the contract, will he/she be assigned a Chromebook?**

No. Students will not be assigned a Chromebook until the contract is signed and submitted.

### **Will my child be at a disadvantage if he/she does not return the User Agreement Form?**

Yes. Teachers are planning activities that can only be completed in the digital environment, so students who do not have a school-issued Chromebook will be at a disadvantage. Lack of technology will lead to homework assignments where a student is forced to work independently on an assignment that was designed to be collaborative. While no student will be academically penalized, it is imperative that parents realize students who do not utilize this innovative teaching tool will miss out on the full connected classroom experience.

### **Will the internet be filtered at school and at home?**

Yes. All school-issued Chromebooks will have filters in the browser that will limit access to objectionable content both at school or on any network (home, Starbucks, etc.)

### **Will my student be able to connect his/her Chromebook to our home wireless network or to another public network?**

Yes. The Chromebooks are able to connect to any available network; however filtering will remain in effect and limit access to some websites.

### **What if I do not have a home internet network?**

Free internet is widely available at public libraries and fast food establishments, as well as many other public locations. Students have many local options to access the internet to complete assignments. Low cost internet providers are also available and options will be made available to students.

**How can I locate a wireless hotspot?**

Students at Fayette County High School created a [map of Fayette County](#) that shows free hotspots throughout the county. Expand the map then click on the icon to see a description of the location.

**Can the Chromebook be used without an internet connection?**

Some features will be available. The district will enable the Offline function. Students should be able to edit or create documents while offline. When they next connect to the internet, the files will update to their Google Drive account.

**Can a student attach a USB drive or external drive to a Chromebook?**

Yes, USB devices can be connected to the Chromebook to access files (like documents or pictures); however, executable files (.exe files) cannot be run on the the Chromebooks.

**What if my student forgets to bring his/her Chromebook to school?**

Since Chromebooks will be widely used as a classroom resource, students will need to have them at school each day. School discipline for not being prepared for class could be assigned for not having his/her Chromebook.

**Is my student responsible for charging the Chromebook each evening?**

Yes. The Chromebooks have excellent battery life and should not need to be charged at school if they are fully charged each night. We recommend that each family establish a consistent charging location for the Chromebook to be charged each night.

**What if my student forgets to charge his/her Chromebook?**

While we do not want students to make a habit of charging their Chromebooks at school, each classroom will have a dedicated power strip for that purpose in the rare occasion that a student forgets to charge at home.

**Can my student use his/her own personal laptop at school in place of the Chromebook?**

No. Teachers have monitoring software on their laptops specifically designed to allow them to monitor our school-owned Chromebooks. Allowing your student to use his/her personal device would circumvent that monitoring. Teachers also have software that will allow them to mirror your student's Chromebook onto the interactive display unit in the classroom to model exemplary work or collaboratively work on a document. Teachers can only push links, activities, websites, textbook examples, and other documents to our Chromebooks.

**Will my student have the ability to download items to the Chromebook?**

No. Chromebooks are enterprise-managed, meaning that the school system will push out apps for students to use on the Chromebooks. Students will not be allowed to download anything onto their Chromebook. All storage for the student will be accomplished on the Cloud, specifically Google Drive.

**Will my student be able to keep his/her Chromebook over the summer?**

Yes. Students will be able to keep their Chromebook until they leave RSMS. Whether the devices move with our students to the high school is still under discussion.

**Since all students will have the same model Chromebook in a similar case, how will students know whose Chromebook is whose?**

When Chromebooks are deployed, each student will receive a luggage tag to attach to the Chromebook case.

**What types of software will students be using on their Chromebook?**

Each discipline has software that is applicable to their subject area, but all classes will be utilizing Blackboard, Infinite Campus, Google Apps, and Safari Montage.

**Will the school or district be able to “see” through my student’s webcam?**

No. None of our tools and resources allow remote camera access. We can turn on geo-tracking if a device is stolen, but the camera is not accessed when that happens. We can remotely enable and disable the webcam for user access (meaning we can decide when the user has access to using the webcam), but we *cannot* view remotely through a student’s webcam.

**Will use of 1:1 computing cut down on paper usage at the school?**

Yes. Most assignments will now be submitted digitally to teachers via Blackboard, so fewer hard copies of assignments will be necessary. Furthermore, we will explore the possibility of eliminating the paper copies of the student handbook and student agenda and offer the information digitally..

**Can the Chromebooks be tracked if lost or stolen?**

Yes, the Chromebooks do have a GPS tracking device in them which can help us if a Chromebook is misplaced or stolen. The Chromebook does not have to be powered on in order to be tracked.

**What insurance options are available?**

Worth Ave. Group Electronic Device Insurance Coverage is available to parents at a cost of \$15.75 for February through August. The cost will be approximately \$25 for the entire 2018-19 school year. You can purchase insurance at <https://gpo.worthavegroup.com/gpo/rising-starr>.

**What does the supplemental insurance cover?**

The insurance covers, Accidental Damage (Drops & Spills); Cracked Screen; Liquid Submersion; Fire, Flood & Natural Disaster; Power Surge By Lightning; and Theft & Vandalism

The insurance does NOT cover Manufacture Defect & Mechanical Failure; Standard Wear & Tear; Cosmetic Damage; and Unexplained Loss.

**Is the charger covered by the insurance?**

Chargers are included in the insurance if the device is stolen. It would also be included for the complete replacement (Chromebook, charger, and case). A lost charger would not be covered and incurs a replacement cost of \$40 (per the user agreement).

### **Can I print from the Chromebook?**

No, you cannot currently print directly from the Chromebook. Although we are encouraging a reduction in paper documents, you can print documents created on the Chromebook from a Mac or PC computer, if necessary. Students who cannot print at home, can print in the media center or from the classroom computers that are still in most classrooms. The district is exploring options to eventually allow printing from the Chromebooks.

### **How should I care for the Chromebook?**

Below are some tips for care of the Chromebook.

#### **Screen Care:**

The Chromebook screen can be damaged if subjected to rough treatment.

- Try not to lean on top of the Chromebook with body weight
- Refrain from placing heavy textbooks or other items thrown into a backpack on top of the Chromebook that could put pressure on the screen.
- Do not place anything on the keyboard before closing the lid (e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks).
- Clean the screen with a soft, dry antistatic, or microfiber cloth. Do not use window cleaner or any type of liquid on the Chromebook. You can also use packaged pre-moistened eyeglass lens cleaning tissues to clean the screen.

#### **General Precautions:**

- No food or drink allowed near your Chromebook
- Cords, cables, and removable storage devices must be inserted carefully into the Chromebook.
- Never carry Chromebook while the screen is open.
- Never shove the Chromebook into an already full locker or wedge into a book bag as this could break the screen.