

Deerfield Community School District

Excellence and Equity in Education



October 1, 2015

Dear High School Parents and Guardians,

We are very excited to announce the introduction of 1-to-1 technology for all students in high school beginning second quarter this year. In recent years, the district has purchased carts of Chromebooks to be shared by the staff and students throughout the district. These purchases have allowed many more students to have access to technology as a learning tool and paperless work completion tool, however; as educational resources continue to expand, we have found that sharing a limited number of Chromebooks is very cumbersome for students. For this reason, the school board has supported a 1-to-1 Technology Plan that will provide students in grades 9-12 with a Chromebook for use in and out of school.

Our curriculum increasingly contains e-textbooks, classroom materials and learning resources which are hosted online. We will continue to use some hard-copy textbooks, but many of the other materials can be completed online allowing us to save paper and printing costs. Additionally, our increased use of Google Apps for Education for submitting assignments and collaborating with peers on projects will be easier if high school students have their own device to take to each classroom and to take home at night to complete their work.

Chromebooks are similar in size and form to a laptop, however, they are internet-only devices. Chromebooks do not have software or other programs stored on a hard-drive, therefore, there are few, if any, problems with slow processing speed and software updates except for those that occur while connected to the internet. For this reason, they are inexpensive education tools that work well within the school setting.

All students in high school will be issued a Chromebook, charger and carrying case at the end of October. **Parents and students will be required to attend a 1-to-1 Technology meeting** to learn about the device and the guidelines in the Technology Handbook and to sign a User Agreement. Students in attendance at the meeting will be issued their Chromebook at that time. We will hold three meetings to give parents and students many opportunities to hear the information and pick up their Chromebook. **The dates of the meetings are: Wednesday, October 28 from 6:00-7:00pm, Sunday, November 1 from 4:00-5:00pm and Monday, November 2 from 6:00-7:00pm in the HS commons.** Please plan to attend one of these nights to ensure your child has his/her Chromebook for the start of second quarter.

Students who currently participate in Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) and have a laptop for daily use may choose to opt out of the Chromebook, but will be expected to bring their laptop to school daily.

Included are some Frequently Asked Questions that parents and students may have about the 1-to-1 Technology Plan. This information will also be shared at the mandatory parent/student meetings.

We are looking forward to providing students better access to technology in and out of school as we prepare them to be college and career ready by graduation. Your continued support of your child's education is appreciated in the exciting endeavor.

Sincerely,

Michelle R. Jensen
District Administrator

Brad Johnsrud
MS/HS Principal

Nathan Hruby
Technology Coordinator

Cindy Perucco
Technology Integration Specialist