



## **1:1 Devices Frequently Asked Questions**

SCCPSS

Charles Ellis Montessori Academy

### **Why Chromebooks?**

The Chromebook needs little maintenance. It is a completely web-based device so there is no need for downloading or installing programs. They have few moving parts and generate little heat. If treated appropriately, they can last five years or more. The Chromebook reduces the need for technical support. They have powerful processors, adequate memory, and automatically update the latest software and security features without anything needing to be done by the student. Students, when logged on with their district email, will have access to the Google Apps for Education suite of tools, including Google Docs (word processing), Spreadsheets, Presentations, Drawings, and Forms. Work done on a Chromebook automatically saves to the “cloud” in the Google Drive.

### **Can students opt out of having a Chromebook?**

No. Chromebooks are an integral part of the education all students receive at Ellis and we want them to take advantage of the powerful learning resources available with it.

### **How will Chromebooks be used in the classroom?**

Erdkinder and Exploration teachers will be using Chromebooks to enhance their curriculum. These devices allow for more productive interaction between teacher and students, between students in collaboration, and interaction with sources outside of Charles Ellis Montessori. It is our vision that students will develop a more worldly citizenship view and their place in it by exploring Global Education Competencies. All teachers associated with the 1:1 program are participating in Chromebook and Google training.

### **What training and/or support will students receive?**

Students at Charles Ellis have had previous access to the Google platform, beginning at the Upper Elementary grades. Teachers will continue to provide lessons on appropriate use and technical capabilities. We have district technology coaches who will be assisting in student support on a regular basis. In addition, ongoing lessons on Digital Citizenship will help them become more effective users of technology for learning. Data will be collected from students, in the form of a pre- and post-evaluation, to determine impact on curriculum through use of the Chromebook.

### **How is one student’s Chromebook identified from another student’s?**

We will be using Chromebooks made by Dell and they all look like. Each Chromebook has been tagged with a barcode from the Ellis Media Center that corresponds to the device’s Serial Number. Students will have a device checked out to them. Each student will have a protective case to store their device. The cases will have corresponding bar codes to the Chromebooks, along with name tags for students. The device never needs to leave the case, as it is designed to support the Chromebook while being used. While the devices and protective cases are issued to students, they are still district-owned property. Additional permanent markings on the device will be considered vandalism.

**How are students expected to carry their Chromebooks?**

Chromebooks should never be transported while open as it can damage the screen. Chromebooks and cases should be closed before they leave one classroom for another, or to and from school.

**Will the Chromebooks be allowed to go home with students?**

Erdkinder students will be allowed to take the Chromebooks home for school-related use. All students must have a Technology Acceptable Use and Procedures Compact signed by themselves and a parent or guardian before they will be issued a Chromebook.

**What login will students use to get into their device's operating system?**

Students will use their district email address as their primary login and username. They are also assigned a default password. Their email addresses, usernames and passwords remain the same from year to year. In some cases, passwords can be changed to one of a student's choosing, but if it is forgotten, the original password will need to be reset. If this information is forgotten, a teacher or the media specialist can help with getting it reset.

**Can parents use the Chromebooks?**

When a student is logged into the Chromebook, parents can use them to review assignments, check on student work, or view their browsing history. The Chromebooks are not intended for personal use by the student or their parents.

**Who will be responsible for charging the Chromebooks?**

Students are expected to charge their Chromebooks nightly at home and bring them to school fully charged. A student whose Chromebook is not charged will be without it that day. The school does not have a cart available to charge all of these devices.

**Where can you get an internet connection?**

Chromebooks only connect to the web with a wireless connection. If the district's WIFI network is down during school, the devices will not connect. However, some features, such as access to the student's Google Drive, will work on a limited basis. Work that is done off line will not be saved until a wireless connection is reestablished. The Chromebooks will also connect to WIFI networks off campus, such as home networks or the public WIFI access at libraries.

**Can the Chromebooks be used with another username?**

No. Students and staff cannot access a district-owned Chromebook with any other login other than their district assigned email. Students should not login to any web-based service with a personal account – the Chromebook is for educational purposes only.

**Can documents and bookmarks created on the Chromebook be accessed on another device?**

If a student logs onto another device with their username, all of their information (bookmarks, documents, applications, etc.) will be available to them on that device when using a Chrome browser. Data can also be saved to a USB drive and transported between devices.

**Will unsafe or inappropriate websites be filtered on the devices?**

Before each Chromebook device connects to the Internet, it must pass through district network firewalls and filters. This happens whether the device is browsing at school, or off campus using another WiFi network that is providing the Internet connection. Our web filters are programmed to block inappropriate content as much as possible.

**Can viruses get onto the Chromebook?**

Since the applications run through the browser and online, there is little worry about having viruses infect the Chromebook's software or hardware.

**Can the district track web history?**

Yes. The district can track information on what sites students were on, when they were on them, and how long they were on those sites. Violations of the Acceptable Use Policy can result in disciplinary action.

**What happens if the device is damaged or lost?**

The district has provided insurance for the devices through a company named STAYMOBILE. The Plan includes coverage of Accidental Damage, Defective Buttons or Ports, Defective Pixels, Power Surges, and Internal Overheating or Humidity. A representative will regularly check into the school to pick up any device that is not working. In this case, the device will leave with the representative and a loaner device will be given to the student until his/her device is returned. *Insurance will only cover the repairs to the Chromebook if it is in the protective case provided. Insurance does not cover loss of the device.*

**What devices can be used with the Chromebooks?**

Students may attach headphones/earbuds, USB storage devices, or mice to their Chromebooks.

**How will students submit work or assignments via their devices?**

Teachers will be using a learning management system (such as Google Classroom or Edmodo) to distribute and collect work from students. This allows students to submit any digital file on their Google Drive to their teacher.

**Can you print from the Chromebook?**

Digital online file sharing between staff and students is one of the great advantages of the Chromebooks and is an easy and efficient way to distribute and turn in assignments without printing. It also saves on paper, ink and toner use, thereby saving resources. There are ways to print from a Chromebook, but it's not encouraged. Most printing of schoolwork should be done at school, but we are encouraging staff to limit printing of assignments.

**What if a student is out of school for an extended period of time due to illness, travel, etc.?**

Assignments, readings, and other resources can be placed online and shared with a student who is absent. The work can be done online and submitted via the learning management system.

**Will devices be kept by students over school breaks or the summer?**

Students will be allowed to use the devices over school breaks, such as Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring breaks. Devices will be turned in at the end of the school year for maintenance, and will not be available to take home over the summer. Devices will be re-issued at the beginning of the school year to returning students.

**As a parent or guardian, what kind of limits should I set on my child's "screen time"? How does the Chromebook affect my rules at home?**

We hope that our 1:1 Chromebook program will help students learn and maintain good digital habits. Any rules that you have about computer use or Internet access should apply equally to your child's Chromebook use. However, please keep in mind that more class content will be digitally accessed by the Chromebook. This may require students to extend their screen time to meet course requirements.