

FAQ about bringing a device from home

I have a device at home. Will it work?

As long as the device has wifi capabilities, so the student has the ability to connect to the internet, most devices should be fine. However, during our pilot year (2014-2015) with Freshmen, our teachers made the following device recommendations:

Here is a list of devices that you should avoid for school work in our BYOD program:

ProScan Tablet
Kindle
iPod

Samsung Galaxy Tablet
Smart Phones

What kind of laptop computer is recommended if I want to purchase a new one for my child and would rather have something more powerful than a Chromebook?

Most of what we will use devices for will be word processing, web access, cloud storage and Google Applications. Most laptops or tablets purchased in the past 3-5 years should work. Most of the activities kids will do with the computers at school will access the internet. Our technology department has provided the following information for those looking to purchase laptop other than a Chromebook to ensure it has the optimal browser and operating system to access web content:

Supported browsers

The biggest message we want to convey is that the devices need to have the ability to run the Google Apps for Education suite. Most browsers that are updated will work. Here are some specific recommendations

Google Drive on the web supports the two most recent versions of the following browsers:

Chrome
Firefox
Safari
Internet Explorer

Note: Google Chrome Browser is the best choice for our school. Other browsers might work with Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides. However, we can't guarantee that features will work as expected.

For Laptops

For Windows

Windows Vista	Windows 7
Windows XP	Windows 8

For Mac

Mavericks (10.9)	Lion (10.7)
Mountain Lion (10.8)	Snow Leopard (10.6)

For Linux

Google Drive isn't currently available for the Linux operating system. Linux users can still access Google Drive on the web – drive.google.com or through the Google Drive mobile app.

For Android Tablets

Eclair and up (Android 2.1+)

Note: We have had some trouble during our pilot with Android Devices. The ProScan tablet will not work.

For iPads

iOS 7.0+ (Older versions may work, but it is best to download the apps when using Google Apples with an iPad)

The device I have will not last an entire day.

First off, we know that some teachers will be using the devices every day, some will use the device for a portion of the class period, others at intervals throughout the week, and there will be certain classes the student will not be using a device at all. As a result, a device may only be used for part of the school day. Students needing to re-charge their devices will have access in each classroom to electrical outlets. We will plan on adding power strips in the library, study hall, and other common areas of the building allowing students to charge their device.

My child is bringing his/her iPad to school for instructional purposes. Will he/she have access to things he/she normally does with district equipment?

Your child will have access to any of the web based software the high school campuses currently use (Databases, library search tools, etc.). Software may run differently on different devices for various reasons. You should consult your owner's manual for software limitations.

As a parent, am I required to add additional software (virus protection, filter, tracking device, etc.) to my child's technology tool?

No. Currently we are not requiring any additional software for school use. Virus protection is always advised, but not required to participate in the pilot. While on the school network, students will be monitored through the district's filter, so there is no need for additional filtering software.

What if I do not wish to have my child accessing the Internet using his/her own laptop? I would like to allow him/her to use her computer for productivity, but not the Internet. Is this possible within this pilot plan?

Yes. Your child may choose not to accept the terms of use; however, the rules outlined in the school's Acceptable Use Policy still apply for technology use of any kind (Internet or other). Also, it is not the responsibility of campus staff to ensure he/she has not accessed the Web on his/her own technology device (using personal or parent-provided 3 or 4G wireless internet access for example). Damage or theft is still the responsibility of the owner.

If my child's device is stolen or damaged, what recourse can I take?

The district is not responsible for any damage or theft of student owned equipment. Installing tracking software like Absolute Software can help locate the equipment if it is stolen, and keeping track of the device's serial number, model and type will be helpful as well. Theft or vandalism of any kind should be reported immediately to school administrators.

What are the campus/classroom rules for using student owned devices including phones?

Teachers make the final decision for any tools used in the classroom; student owned equipment would be no different. It will be up to the individual teachers to communicate their expectations to parents and students. Please refer to the student handbook for further details.

Will my child have access to communication tools like email, calendar, etc.?

Yes. Students will be provided a free, secure school email account. All students have an email that is lastname.firstname@jayschools.k12.in.us. They will also have access to any personal, web-based email accounts that they may have already created. The Google tools that are used in classrooms require students to have email accounts.

What types of filtering do you provide when students use the guest network?

Guest access uses a standard filter provided for by Lightspeed. This is the same filter we have used in our school for years. We've found it effective at blocking inappropriate and violent sites. We feel our Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) does a very good job at defining what a student should access when using the school network. Violations of the AUP result in a suspension of access to the network. This filter will continue be in place for any school-owned device that is used off school networks. That means that no matter where a student is using the device outside of school, the student can only access internet that is filtered by the school preventing access to inappropriate content. However, if a student uses their personal or parent provided laptop or tablet outside of school, then the student can access internet not filtered by the school. It would be the parent's responsibility to set security and filtering features for devices provided to the student by the parent.

FAQ about using school owned Chromebooks

What will this cost me?

If you have a laptop or tablet at home, that your student can bring to school, there will be no cost. You also have the option to lease a Chromebook from the school for approximately \$80 per year (school retains ownership of device). This leasing fee would be added to your yearly Textbook Rental bill. If your student qualifies for free or reduced lunch, your student may be provided a school-owned laptop for use during the school year at no cost.

What if a Chromebook breaks? Where do students turn them in?

If a school-owned Chromebook breaks accidentally or due to improper use/carelessness, the student should turn in their device in areas designated for support at the school. The devices will be sent out for repair and tested to ensure that the device is working properly before it is returned to the student. Costs of repair will be invoiced to parents or guardians. Students will be issued a loaner device while their chromebook is being repaired to ensure that they have the access they need to complete class work.

What if a Chromebook is lost or stolen?

Chromebooks that are lost or stolen should be reported to the school office. In the event of theft, a police report should be filed. Students will be provided with a replacement device and an invoice for the lost or stolen device will be sent to the parent or guardian.

Will students have e-mail?

Yes. All students will have email accounts. We expect to have accounts for students by the start of end semester. Many of the Google tools that are used in classrooms require students to have email accounts.

Do students have passwords so that others cannot access their Chromebooks?

Yes. Students will receive instructions on how to login using their e-mail address and password. It is very important that students do not share their passwords with others. Students will also be instructed not to loan their devices to anyone. Students are responsible to care for their Chromebooks and will be accountable for any damage to the device.

Can students use external storage devices?

Yes, but it's not necessary. All of their documents will be stored online through Google Drive and can be accessed through the Chromebook. As long as offline access has been enabled on the device (found on the left hand side of the Drive window) many documents will be available to students even if they are not online.

How can I see what my child is doing on her Chromebook? Is there a way to see what time the Chromebook is turned on and off? Is there a way to restrict what she does on the Chromebook?

Parents can access the browsing history of their students by going to "Customize and control Google Chrome" icon at the top left hand corner of the Chrome browser. This icon is three horizontal parallel lines. On this page, the history of the account can be accessed. Please note that students also have access to this button and to all of the functions on the history page.

Also available on the Customize and control Google Chrome page is a listing of all the devices used to access the current user's account and the time of recent activity. Although this page does not specifically indicate when a chromebook was turned off or on, there is detailed information about the times when activities occurred.

How can I filter the internet access of my student when they are at home or off campus?

Understanding and monitoring the online behaviors of students is an important task that parents and educators share. When students are using Jay School Corporation provided devices and connections on campus, the Internet is filtered per board policy to "restrict access to pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors."

The school-owned Chromebooks that students take home will be filtered through Jay School Corporation's internet connection. Monitoring the internet access of students off campus is the responsibility of parents and guardians. Depending on the network students are using to access the internet at home, there may be filtering options provided by your private Internet Service Provider (ISP).