

Olathe Public Schools High School 1:1 Technology Initiative

Parent Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why did the district decide to move forward with a 1:1 technology initiative for high school students?

A: The expanded use of technology in the classroom is an innovative way to reach today's students, digital natives in a continuously evolving digital world. Research shows us that today's learners are different than learners of 20 years ago. We live in a digital age where kids are comfortable with technology, which has proven to be an effective resource in student learning. Teachers will use technology as a tool to deepen thinking and engagement in the curriculum.

Q: What device will each student receive? Why?

A: A large group of teachers and members of the district's Technology Division researched, studied and tested numerous devices over a multi year period and determined that the MacBook Air would be best device for high school students. MacBook Airs have a much longer battery life, much lower repair rate, and are much less expensive than all the other models we tested.



Q: If my student already has a laptop, do they need the school-issued one?

A: Yes, it will be necessary for all students to be using the same device as teachers will be leading class projects that will require students to have the same technology to further instruction.

Q: Will training be provided for students and parents?

A: Absolutely, there will be student device training as well as in-depth lessons on digital citizenship. In addition, there will be parent information nights where parents can learn more about MacBooks and how they will be used in the Olathe Public Schools.

Q: Will students take the laptops home?

A: Yes, students will take the laptops home in the evening and will be required to bring them back to school each day. Being able to take the laptop home will allow students to continue the educational process and use the important technology tool on home work.

Q: What if the laptop is damaged or lost?

A: Students will be required to pay a fee if their laptop is damaged or lost. The fee will be based on the age of the laptop and the specific repairs required.

Q: Will students keep the same laptop for their entire high school career? Will they keep their device over the summer?

A: Students will be issued a device at the start of their 9th grade year. They will continue to use that device until they graduate, move, or the district replaces the device. Like textbooks, some students in later years will be issued devices that have been previously used by other students.

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Q: Can we purchase my students MacBook once they graduate?

A: No. Purchasing a MacBook for a reduced price would require us to replace it at full price.

Q: What if we do not have WiFi at home?

A: MacBooks continue to have enormous value even when not in a wireless environment. We are working with teachers to be sensitive to the individual needs of students when assigning homework. We are also working with various community partners to identify locations that welcome students to use their free and public WiFi – the library, for example.

Q: How will my students be prepared for the responsibility of having their own MacBook?

A: The district has developed a comprehensive digital citizenship program that all students will attend. The digital citizenship program helps students recognize the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of living, learning and working in an interconnected digital world, and will teach them how they must act and model in ways that are safe, legal and ethical. Students will learn to cultivate and manage their digital identity and reputation and become aware of the permanence of their actions in the digital world. Students will learn to demonstrate an understanding of and respect for the rights and obligations of using and sharing intellectual property.

Q: Will students have physical textbooks or will they all be online?

A: Many textbooks will be available online, but there may be some that will be physical textbooks. Given that we have, in most instances, already purchased textbooks for students, teachers and/or departments will have the choice of how (or whether) they incorporate physical textbooks in their classroom.

Q: Will there be repercussions, as far as behavior with the computers? What if students are not using them correctly at school or at home?

A: Students will be required to follow the Code of Student Conduct and the Acceptable Use Policy while using the laptop.

Q: Who can we contact for technical support?

A: Students will have a variety of support options. Each high school will have a full time technologist assigned to support the devices. Each laptop will also allow students to submit work orders. Additionally, we are working to support a student technology team available each hour of the day to assist students. Finally, we will provide many digital resources online for students to access.

Q: Will the district provide cases for the laptops?

A: The district will provide a plastic cover to prevent cosmetic and light damage; however, the cover is not designed to fully protect the device. Students and parents may opt to purchase a protective case, sleeve, or bag at a retailer of their choice.

Q: Will the district provide insurance option for the laptop?

A: No. We will not offer an insurance plan.