

Chatham High School

100 Cavalier Circle, Chatham, Virginia 24531

October 24, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In an effort to ensure our students are college and career ready, Pittsylvania County Schools (PCS) is implementing a one-to-one (1:1) Chromebook initiative for all high school students beginning with the 2022-23 school year. This initiative will provide students with a wide range of tools that allow for collaboration, critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication, as well as engaging students both in and out of the classroom.

Beginning November 1, 2022, Chatham High School will start distributing a Chromebook to each student in grades 9-12. The Chromebook, charger, and case will be used both in the classroom and at home for educational purposes. Your child will be using this tool for instructional purposes, assignments, projects, research, and assessments throughout the school day as deemed appropriate by classroom teachers. Students are responsible for bringing their Chromebook to each class every day fully charged.

Why Chromebooks?

A Chromebook is a mobile device/laptop that is web-based, which means that there is no need for downloading or installing software and/or updates. Student work on the Chromebook automatically saves to the cloud, and in particular each student's personal cloud-based Google Drive. It is cost-effective and starts up quickly. The device has a lengthy battery life of up to 12 hours per charge. A Chromebook also has many safety features which are put into place to ensure students are protected while using the device.

Who owns these Chromebooks?

Chromebooks that are issued to individual students are the property of Pittsylvania County Schools. Students will have to adhere to the PCS Acceptable Use Policy and the PCS Device Loan and Use agreement. Students are responsible for the Chromebook's general care and content accessed through the device.

Will students receive training on how to use the school-issued Chromebook?

Yes! Students will go through a training module through Canvas once they receive their Chromebook that will cover important topics such as: student expectations and responsibilities, Chromebook care, digital citizenship, and the student Chromebook repair process.

Who is responsible if the Chromebook is damaged or lost?

Students are responsible for the general care of the Chromebook they have been issued. Chromebooks that are broken, damaged, lost, or stolen must be reported to the administration and/or the media specialist immediately. Students are responsible for the cost of any accidental damage/loss. Parents have the option to purchase device insurance that will cover your student's device if the device is accidentally damaged, lost, or stolen. Information regarding this optional insurance program is included with this letter. Device coverage will be \$35 per student for device only coverage, and \$45 per student for device and charger coverage, for the school year.

Will there be Internet filters on the Chromebooks?

Students can only access the Chromebook with their PCS student account. PCS uses GoGuardian, an online filtering system, to restrict internet access on Chromebooks at school and at home to allow appropriate web content. Student accounts also do not allow access to apps or extensions from the Chrome Web Store, unless they are released by the PCS IT Department.

Included with this letter is a copy of the Pittsylvania County Schools Device Loan and Use Agreement. This agreement must be reviewed by both the student and the parent, and both must sign and return the form to the school before a device will be issued. PCS Device Loan and Use Agreements must be returned to school by Monday, October 31, 2022. Additionally, along with the device agreement, a copy of the Student Device Expectations: Charge It, Bring It, Protect It! has been provided to parents for review on our school's website. Devices will be returned at the end of each school year, and students will be issued the same device the following fall.

We look forward to providing our students with this new opportunity. We are confident that this 1:1 initiative will have a positive impact on student learning and achievement. Additional information will be provided to parents via email and the PCS website.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. H.', written in a cursive style.

Principal, Chatham High School