

Digital Learning Program FAQ- Parents/Guardians

Can the Chromebook be taken home?

Yes, students are expected to take their Chromebook home every night and charge the device. Students should use the device at home to work on class assignments and research. Students are expected to return to school with the Chromebook fully charged every day.

How will students be protected from inappropriate content?

While the district's Internet filter offers some protection against questionable content, teachers and parents also play a key role. Teachers will use software called GoGuardian to monitor students' activity on the internet, ensuring that students are on-task. At home, GoGuardian and the District web filter will continue to filter and log online activity. While these are useful tools, they are meant to supplement, not replace, parental monitoring. See Board of Education policy for additional details.

Who is responsible for the Chromebook?

Students and parents will be responsible for district-owned technology property that is issued to them, just as they are for other district-owned items such as textbooks, calculators, cameras, athletics equipment or library books. The district will repair or replace the device, but students and parents will be responsible for the cost of replaced devices as outlined in the SMMUSD Assigned Device Policy.

What happens if my child leaves his/her Chromebook at home?

If possible, parents should drop off student Chromebooks in the school's Main Office. There will also be a limited number of loaners available in the library that students may check out for the day (if available).

Should my child charge his/her Chromebook every night?

Yes, students are expected to charge their Chromebook every night at home. A fully charged Chromebook will be able to last the entire school day. Should the Chromebook lose power during the day and need to be recharged, students may check their chromebook in to be charged at the media center. The media center is not meant for students who simply forgot to charge their chromebooks at home. Charging is not allowed in classrooms, hallways, common areas, or anywhere else in school. Chargers should be left at home because of the possibility of them being lost/stolen.

What happens if a student's device breaks?

The student should go to the library or the designated "tech hub" to check in his/her broken device and check out a loaner device. The device will be shipped out for service. Once the device is repaired, we will notify the student.

What happens if the Chromebook is lost/stolen?

In the case of a stolen device, students or parents must present a police report to the school's principal within 72 hours of the theft. Lost devices are not covered by the protection plan. Students will be charged no more than \$325 for a lost Chromebook.

Can a Chromebook be brought from home, or is use of the District provided Chromebook required?

Chromebooks brought from home cannot be used. District owned Chromebooks are managed by SMMUSD to assign software, wireless security and web filtering. We cannot provide these essential services to devices not owned by SMMUSD and therefore privately owned Chromebooks cannot be used at school as part of this program.

How will Chromebooks be used in the classroom?

Teachers will integrate Chromebooks into classroom instruction using a variety of proven and emerging methods. Teachers will receive ongoing training on ways to best utilize these devices to maximize students' critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity. Students will be encouraged to use the many Google Apps available to assist with time management and studying, as well as using their device for research and collaboration with peers.

Can the Chromebook be used if we do not have internet access at home?

The devices will only connect to the web wirelessly. However, some features, such as access to the student's Google Drive, will still work on a limited basis. The work that is done off-line will be synced when a wireless Internet connection is restored. Some features of the Chromebook, such as Google Documents, are accessible even without Internet access. Several local public buildings, such as the public libraries, offer free wifi. Families with a student who is eligible for free or reduced lunch may also qualify for \$9.95/month internet access from [Comcast Internet Essentials](#). COX also provides discounted home internet service for students who qualify. ([More information](#))

Can parents use the Chromebooks?

When a student is logged into the Chromebook, parents can use them to check on student work, view their browsing history or connect with teachers through Google Classroom or via email. The Chromebooks are NOT at any time intended for personal use for the student, other family members, or their parents.

What happens if we are leaving SMMUSD?

Chromebooks are the property of SMMUSD. Should your child leave the district, the Chromebook must be returned to school.