

Wabasha-Kellogg Schools

Digital Learning Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is W-K's one-to-one digital learning plan?

- All students in grades 7 through 12 for the 2019-2020 school year will have the option to receive a school voucher worth \$160 to use towards purchasing one of four devices from our partner, Best Buy. The four devices available include:
 - ASUS C204 CHROMEBOOK (baseline model with 11.6" screen)
 - This device also includes a 3 year, 3 claim accidental damage/manufacture warranties built into the overall price
 - ASUS C403 CHROMEBOOK (baseline model with 14" screen)
 - This device also includes a 3 year, 3 claim accidental damage/manufacture warranties built into the overall price
 - ASUS C214 CHROMEBOOK (flip and touchscreen model with 11.6" screen)
 - This device also includes a 3 year, 3 claim accidental damage/manufacture warranties built into the overall price
 - ASUS C434TA (flip and touchscreen model with 14" screen, faster processor, more memory and brush Aluminum case)
 - This device also includes a 3 year, 3 claim accidental damage/manufacture warranties built into the overall price
- If a student in grades 7-12 does not wish to use the school voucher and purchase one of the four devices listed above, they have two additional options:
 - Option 1 – They can lease a Chromebook baseline model from the school for \$55 a year and this would include the 3 year, 3 claim accidental damage/manufacture warranties. This device can be taken home.
 - Option 2 – They can bring their own device that meets the district specifications outlined later in this FAQ.
- All elementary students will have access to either iPads or Chromebooks within their classrooms to use on a daily basis. .

What will W-K's one-to-one digital learning plan look like beyond next school year?

- Essentially every three years (Grades 7 & 10) students will have the option to receive the school voucher and purchase a new device through our partner, Best Buy. The devices available will change as technology continues to advance.

Who owns and manages the device?

- This question is dependent on what option the student and parent selects.
- Option 1: The student/parent takes the \$160 school voucher and purchases one of the four devices listed previously.
 - The student/parent owns the device and the device is not managed by the school
- Option 2: The student/parent declines the school voucher and elects to lease a Chromebook for \$55 per school year from the district.
 - The school owns and manages the device
- Option 3: The student/parent declines the school voucher and elects to utilize the “bring your own device” option and the device meets the specifications outlined by the district and in this FAQ.
 - The student/parent owns the device and the device is not managed by the school

How much does each device cost?

- The exact cost of devices could fluctuate every year. For the 2019-2020 school year, we are confident that the devices will cost the following:
 - ASUS C204 CHROMEBOOK (baseline model with 11.6” screen) w/ 3 year, 3 claim warranty
 - \$329.99 - \$160 school voucher = \$169.99 parent/student cost
 - ASUS C403 CHROMEBOOK (baseline model with 14” screen) w/ 3 year, 3 claim warranty
 - \$359.99 - \$160 school voucher = \$199.99 parent/student cost
 - ASUS C214 CHROMEBOOK (flip and touchscreen model with 11.6” screen) w 3 / year, 3 claim warranty
 - \$419.99 - \$160 school voucher = \$259.99 parent/student cost
 - ASUS C434TA (flip and touchscreen model with 14” screen, faster processor, more memory and brush Aluminum case) w / 3 year, 3 claim warranty
 - \$659.99 - \$160 school voucher = \$499.99 parent/student cost

How does the Best Buy web store work?

- You will receive communications from the school district in the near future with more information regarding the Best Buy web store
- W-K will have a custom online web store through Best Buy for purchasing
- As soon as Best Buy has the online Store available you will receive an email from W-K with information provided from Best Buy with a link to register for the web store along with purchasing instructions
- You will receive another email from W-K which will have your Voucher Code to redeem the \$160 voucher.
- You can make your purchase online at any time until the end of August 2019
- Devices will be shipped to your residence for free

What support is available through Best Buy?

- Best Buy has an Education Support Team that you can reach out to by phone (888-218-9474). The team is available from 8 AM to 7 PM Monday through Friday.

Can I buy multiple devices for my student?

- No; you can only purchase one device per student.

What is the preferred device to purchase?

- All four devices being offered come highly recommended and provide advantages to the student. All four devices will work very well with the software and applications that we will be expecting students to utilize. One of the unique advantages of this one-to-one programming is that it opens the door for students and parents to discuss and analyze what device they believe will work for them.

Am I required to purchase a device from the Best Buy web store?

- No! If you decide not to purchase a device from the Best Buy web store, you would then have the two options listed previously:
 - Option 1 – Lease a Chromebook baseline model from the district for \$55 a year and this would include the 3 year, 3 claim accidental damage/manufacturer warranties. This device can be taken home.
 - Option 2 – BYOD – Bring your own device that meets district specifications, which are outlined later in this FAQ.

What about families that may not be able to purchase a device?

- For students/parents that are not able to purchase a device, they can either bring their own device or lease one of the Chromebook baseline models from the district for \$55 a year and this would include the 3 year, 3 claim accidental damage/manufacturer warranties. This device is school owned and school managed, but can be taken home by the student.
- For students that qualify for free/reduced lunch services, they can apply for a district scholarship to help offset the yearly lease of \$55. The scholarship will require the student/parent to pay 20% of the lease payment. District scholarships can only be used towards leasing school owned devices and cannot be used towards purchasing one of the devices on the Best Buy web store.

We didn't take advantage of the Best Buy options and the \$160 school voucher when we had the opportunity. Can we still use it?

- This is a great question. Unfortunately there are purchasing windows that will close. If you find yourself in this situation, please contact Mike Schumacher at (651) 565-3559 x220 or mschumacher@wkfalcons.org.

What are the goals of W-K's digital learning program?

- Goals include:
 - Enhance and accelerate learning
 - Leverage technology for personalizing instruction
 - Promote collaboration and increase student engagement
 - Strengthen 21st century skills necessary for future success
 - Provide equity for all learners

What benefits does W-K's digital learning program provide for my student?

- Research has been conducted as to the benefits of a one-to-one program. The results include, but are not limited to, increased student engagement, authentic learning, better connections to learning styles, and an integration of current information. In addition, other identified educational benefits include increased student motivation, additional time on learning, more organized students, increased variety of instructional methods, improved access to information, quality and immediate feedback on students' understanding to teachers, and support of equal access for all students. We also believe our one-to-one digital learning program prepares all of our students for their future educational and career plans.

How has the school district prepared for this implementation?

- The district has done extensive research into this implementation. Teams of teachers, technology staff, and Administration have reached out to other school districts and attended multiple conferences and workshops. We have learned a lot about a successful implementation throughout our last four years of our own one-to-one program. We also have established a technology integrationist specialist staff member that is able to provide immediate and ongoing support face to face for all students and staff. Overall we have a strong technology infrastructure, a strong technology centered teaching staff, and are prepared to successfully implement this initiative.

How do the teachers feel about students having devices in their class?

- Our teachers have and continue to establish many online resources to enhance their curriculums and provide their students with engaging activities and ease of access to a variety of information at any time. As a staff we believe that technology has and will continue to positively impact student engagement, participation, collaboration and communication. Our teachers continue to modify their activities to incorporate devices into their curriculum, but at the same time find a balance between technology and time tested non technology instructional strategies.

What steps is the district taking to educate students about appropriate use of the devices?

- Our teachers do a great job of ensuring that students understand the District's acceptable use policy and spend a considerable amount of time throughout the school year promoting and practicing positive online behavior. In addition, we are constantly evaluating the need to filter additional category-based content on our networks and these decisions are based on feedback from staff, students, and stakeholders throughout the Wabasha-Kellogg community.

Why is the district changing in the secondary from iPads to a Chromebook/Laptop device?

- The district decided that making a change to a Chromebook/Laptop device in the secondary was best practice for a multitude of reasons, with the primary ones being:
 - Sustainability
 - Need to increase the amount of iPads in the Elementary
 - iPads seem to be a better device for elementary students, while a Chromebook/laptop device is a better fit for secondary students and their primary usage
 - It was time to either update and purchase more iPads or switch to a different device
 - More device options for students and parents
 - Less issues with updates and apps
 - Need to increase student accountability of devices
 - Student survey – Students were asking for a change and were asking for more of a Chromebook/laptop device

What are the expectations for bringing a device to school?

- When brought to school, the device should arrive fully charged. During the day while the device is not being used, we recommend a philosophy of “out of sight, out of mind,” to ensure proper safekeeping of the device. The devices are incorporated into classes at the discretion of the teacher and they have the right to tell students to put their device away if issues arise.

Can my child bring his/her own device to school?

- Yes! Students are allowed to bring their own device (BYOD). However, all devices must meet the following specifications:
 - The device must have the ability to run the Chrome Browser
 - The device must have a keyboard
 - The device must meet state testing minimum guidelines and hardware requirements
 - (<https://support.assessment.pearson.com/display/TN/TestNav+System+Requirements>)
 - Cellphones/Smart Phones are not acceptable or approved devices

How long will the device last?

- If the device is properly taken care of and not abused or handled inappropriately, it could last many years. We have set-up our program so that a student can receive a voucher every three years if they want to upgrade their device.

What will happen to the device after my student graduates?

- If the student purchases a device using the school voucher system through Best Buy, the device is immediately theirs and obviously goes with the student after graduation. If the student is leasing a Chromebook from the district, they would simply turn it in prior to graduation day.

What if I do not have Internet access?

- While Internet access is ideal, it is not necessary to use many of the powerful features of these devices. Many items can be started at school and worked on later at home. When the student connects to the Internet later, the work they completed while offline will be uploaded. For those cases where Internet access is needed, the school is available both before and after school and has wireless service throughout. Also there are locations in the Wabasha and Kellogg communities that have wireless access available.

How will websites be monitored and filtered?

- All internet access used on the Wabasha-Kellogg School District network is filtered and monitored in the same way we do with regular PCs and desktop computers. When the devices are used off campus, they will not be filtered in any way. It is the responsibility of the student to use the device appropriately. We encourage parents to discuss appropriate use with their child and set guidelines for home and off campus use and monitoring.

How do I monitor use at home?

- It is recommended with adolescents, that they use computers in an area that can be frequently seen by parents such as the dining or living room. If students work at desks in bedrooms, the screen should be readily visible for parents to view from an open doorway. We encourage parents to utilize resources like OpenDNS @ <http://www.opendns.com>, which is a free home Internet filtering program, or Common Sense Media @ www.commonsensemedia.com which provides excellent digital citizenship resources for schools and families to use with students.

How will these devices be protected from damage?

- All of the devices have a 3 year, 3 claim accidental damage/manufacture warranties built in. Devices will definitely be in the student's active possession most of the day. Students must keep their device with them and handle it with care. In addition, it is expected that students follow the guidelines for appropriate handling as found in our Student Acceptable Use Procedures and Information Plan.

How does the warranty claim process work?

- As previously stated, all device options have a 3 year, 3 claim accidental damage/manufacture warranties built in. In the case of an accidental damage or manufacturer defect, the student/parent would contact the ASUS EDU support network. That team would walk the student/parent through the process, which would essentially mean sending the device in for repair. Shipping is paid for both ways on manufacturer defects and one way on accidental damages. Depending on parts availability, it typically takes 2-3 weeks for the device to get repaired and back in the hands of the student. During this time, the student will be able to use one of the district's Chromebooks free of charge. The student will simply bring their repair ticket that they will be issued from the ASUS EDU support network to school and a loaner Chromebook will be theirs to use.

What if the device is totaled out and beyond repair?

- Great question! If the device is damaged beyond repair and is considered 'totaled,' the device will be replaced under the warranty plan, but then the plan is terminated. At that point, the student/parent would be responsible for any future damages or issues.

Who is responsible for a lost or stolen device?

- As with a regular textbook, if the device is lost or stolen, it will be the responsibility of the student. The school district will obviously use all of its resources and energy to help the student locate their device. The student is also expected to have a lock on their lockers to help protect their device and other school and personal belongings.

We bought one of the devices from the web store, but my child cannot seem to use it effectively. What can I do?

- To start, let's have your child work one-on-one with our Tech Coordinator Mr. Schumacher. If we still can't get your child comfortable with their device, we could look at switching to a district owned Chromebook.

Who pays for accessories?

- Each device will be supplied with a charge and sync cord. If students want any additional accessories they will need to purchase them on their own.

Is any of the costs tax deductible?

- Yes, it is possible that some expenses may be tax deductible or qualify for a tax credit on your MN Tax Return. According to MN Tax Return Laws, each family may deduct up to \$200 on computer related expenses. None of this is deductible on your Federal return. Please consult your tax advisor if you have any additional questions.

Do you have the infrastructure and technical expertise for this project?

- Yes. The Wabasha-Kellogg School District has invested wisely into efficient and effective technology systems and has a solid infrastructure. Wireless technologies and bandwidth plans are in place. Through creative professional development opportunities with technology, along with the implementation of many other technology tools such as Smart Boards, Google Apps, and other software applications, our teachers and technology staff are ready and excited for this program.

Will my student still have textbooks?

- Some classes will have their textbooks become digitized and on the device. However, other classes may still need to use the traditional textbooks and paper. We strive to provide a balance between traditional time-tested methods of instruction, as well as incorporating new technology based instructional styles.

How does this initiative impact the social interaction amongst students?

- Current research available is indicating that a 1:1 initiative does not create a negative social environment but may actually enhance this environment. Studies have shown that students increase their social interaction with other students in this type of environment. Studies also indicate that certain students, who do not socially thrive in traditional environments, excel in a 1:1 environment.

Is there a concern that students will have too much screen time?

- As the old saying goes, “Too much of a good thing might not be a good thing.” Our one-to-one digital learning program will give our staff and students’ capabilities for learning that go beyond what the traditional classroom can provide. Even though these devices are a dynamic teaching and learning tool, many traditional methods and materials will remain effective in an array of capacities.

Where is my student’s work stored?

- Dependent on the device, students may be able to store documents on the device itself, however, most, if not all documents and work will be stored in the “cloud” (a place to store digital resources and files online). Google Docs and Schoology will be the primary storage solutions for students online.

Do you want to know what I think?

- Absolutely! Whether you completely support the idea, are completely opposed, or more likely somewhere in the middle, your opinions and ideas are extremely important. We have included many people in the discussion, but we can’t incorporate ideas we haven’t heard. We can’t answer questions that haven’t been asked of us. You may be able to provide insights that we haven’t thought about and as a result can help to make this plan better. If you have comments or questions, please contact Stacy Schultz at (651) 565-3559 or sschultz@wkfalcons.org.