INTERNET @ HOME

Our survey results indicate that fewer than 5% of all Maryville student households do not have consistent access to high-speed internet. We are working with community partners to offer a variety of options and hope one or several of these will meet your needs.

- The **MCS network** provides high-speed internet in all district school facilities. You will find that district issued devices have access to Wi-Fi outside the building in many cases, especially at the main entrance to each school. Check with your school administrator, technology coordinator, or librarian to learn more about the hours and locations of available service.
- **Mobile Hot Spots** (allowing free access to the internet) are available for check-out in our schools. These are especially helpful when a student knows they have a big assignment they will be working on over a weekend or for a few days when Wi-Fi is required for completion. Likewise, hot spots are also helpful for field trips, as well as team or group travel. Multiple students can sign-on to the same mobile hot spot, so please coordinate use during travel. Contact your school technology coordinator, help desk, or librarian for more information.
- **EVERY-1-CONNECTED** is a program designed to give students with the greatest need and not or limited internet access away from school the opportunity to receive a hot spot on loan for the school year. This program was made possible by a federal grant, funds provided by the school district, and help from the Maryville City Schools Foundation. See your technology coordinator to request an application or call Sharon at 982-7121 to see how you can help families in need by contributing to this program.
- The **Blount County Public Library** (located at 508 N. Cusick St.) also has mobile Hot Spots for checkout to patrons. In addition, they offer free Wi-Fi in the library during regular hours and in the parking lot for after-hours use.
- In cooperation with the Blount County Chamber Partnership, we are building a directory of community businesses - called **Free Wi-Fi Zone**. This database is a great resource to find free Wi-Fi locations near your home. Go to http://www.blountchamber.com/community/freewifizone/ to learn more.
- Many **local churches and non-profit organizations** will allow students to use private Wi-Fi for educational purposes. If you live in the vicinity of such an organization, do not hesitate to contact them about your student's needs. In addition, should they have questions and need to speak with someone in the school district, please ask them to call us at (865) 982-7121.
- Several **low cost internet service programs** are available for families who qualify for free or reduced price meals at school. Depending on qualifications, some services charge as little as $5 per month. At this time, we are aware of the following potential programs:
  - EveryOneOn http://everyoneon.org
  - Comcast https://apply.internetessentials.com
  - AT&T https://www.att.com/shop/internet/access/#1/

Should questions or concerns arise, please call our district office at (865) 982-7121. Sharon Anglim, Director of Communications, would be happy to discuss your specific needs or ideas regarding internet access for your student(s).