

Mustang Families,

The mission of Mustang Public Schools is to develop our community of learners as self-confident, creative problem solvers and skillful communicators who are capable of accessing and processing information in a lifelong pursuit of excellence. It is hard, if not impossible, to argue that we are living in a technology-integrated world, regardless of our opinions about that fact. However, some of our students lack the necessary infrastructure or access to technology that is afforded their peers. In an effort to account for this, most schools have adopted a 1:1 program to address this by providing 1 device for every 1 student. This 1:1 environment supports the development of key student skills and responsibilities necessary to safely and effectively navigate the digital transformation of today and the highly-skilled, technology driven global world of tomorrow for ALL students. In Mustang, we have been forced to focus our resources to address the rapid growth of the community, which has meant that we have been unable to provide the 1:1 environment for our students.

We are now pleased to announce that Mustang Public Schools has been awarded federal funding through the Federal Communication Commission's Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF), which was announced over the Summer 2021 (well after the April Bond issue), that will now allow us to partially fulfill this need for our students. Starting tomorrow, Wednesday, November 10, 2021, Mustang High School students will begin receiving devices beginning with Seniors. The deployment of chromebooks will continue through grade 5, covering all students in Intermediate, Middle, and High School through the end of the month. Unfortunately, this funding was not available for our elementary schools, but we are looking for additional funding options to be able to move our District forward to a 1:1 District.

We know this news is sudden, and will likely generate a lot of questions. Individual schools will be sending out more specific instructions on deployment processes, expectations, etc., and we will be compiling these onto our new website for 1:1 - [Mpowered](#). Technology creates an experience that solidifies learning and helps students to solve problems we have yet to even imagine., and this opportunity for our secondary students to live in a 1:1 environment will, in line with our mission, serve to reinforce the 21st Century skills necessary to compete in today's world and prepare for what lies ahead.



More Information for 5th-12th Grade Families

MPS is excited to announce that we are moving to a 1:1 initiative for students in grades 5-12. This means that every student in grade 5-12 will be issued a chromebook that is theirs to use daily both at school and at home for school designated work.

The devices are being checked out to each student through our district inventory system (Destiny), just like a textbook. Every student will have the opportunity to have a Chromebook checked out along with a power supply to charge their device. *(MHS Students electing not to check out a device, must have a comparable device to use in place of the district device. A cell phone is not considered a comparable device.)*

Charging the device will be the students responsibility on a daily basis; our devices are capable of a full day's work battery on a single charge. The students should remember to charge their device nightly so that they have a working device for the next day of school work.

Students and parents/guardians are held responsible for keeping up with this device, This would include keeping it safe from damage of any kind. While the district does maintain warranty and service agreements for

repair of these devices, the students or parents/guardians could be held responsible for any malicious damage to or loss of the device. Average Cost for a lost device is \$300 per unit.

- **Device Alteration:** Students should not alter the appearance of any MPS device, this would include applying any stickers, writing/markings on the device or removing any existing district stickers/markings from the device.
- **Chargers:** Chargers are to be left at home (not brought to school). The district does not allow students to bring their chargers to school in order to charge the device.
- **Technical Issues:** Should a device have a technical issue, the student should take their device to their building's media center as soon as possible in order to get the device repaired/changed out as quickly as possible.
- **Internet Filtering:** While Chromebooks are considered in high regards by [security experts](#), content filtering is just as important to support a safe environment while ensuring our students have access to the appropriate learning tools they need. MPS issued student device internet access is filtered according to CIPA standards while on network and off the MPS network.
- **Connectivity/Offline Use:** Devices are designed so that if internet access is not available, the device can be used offline and when the device is able to access the internet again, data will sync back to google. MPS is unable to provide internet connectivity to families at this time, but are looking for additional funding sources to allow this on a limited/as-needed basis.
- **Device Access:** Only Mustangps.org user accounts are able to be used to log into the device, no personal or non Mustang accounts may be used.
- **Student Email Access:** Students in grades 7-12 have email accounts setup within the mustangps.org email system. This is a closed loop system, meaning they only have access to email mustangps.org email accounts and only receive emails from those accounts in addition to receiving notifications from Canvas or SeeSaw LMS.
- **Google Extensions:** Students will not be able to install extensions or addons other than those that are pre-approved and allowed by the District.
- **Device Return:** Students will be required to turn these devices in at the end of the school year or when they unenroll from the district.
- **Device Monitoring:** All Students google accounts are being monitored by BARK, this monitoring is looking for content in the areas of Profanity, Violence, Bullying, Drug/Alcohol-Related Content, Sexual Content, Depression, Self-Harm or Suicidal Content, Hate Speech, Weapons, etc.
- **Device Cleaning:** Proper cleaning of the devices is recommended in order to help keep the device clean and free of spreading germs/viruses. Any cleaning spray should NEVER be sprayed directly on the chromebook. Spraying of cleaning (antivirus/antibacterial spray) should be sprayed or applied to a cleaning cloth first, and then the device wiped down. Clorox or Lysol wipes should not be used on the screen as those chemicals can cause damage to the screen of the chromebook.
- **Cases/Bags:** Cases/bags are not being issued with the devices. This is a cost that the District is unable to incur at this time.

More Information on the ECF

The FCC's Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) is a \$7.17 billion program that will help schools and libraries provide the tools and services their communities need for remote learning during the COVID-19 emergency period. ECF will help provide relief to millions of students, school staff, and library patrons and will help close the Homework Gap for students who currently lack necessary Internet access or the devices they need to connect to classrooms.

For eligible schools and libraries, the ECF Program will cover reasonable costs of laptop and tablet computers; Wi-Fi hotspots; modems; routers; and broadband connectivity purchases for off-campus use by students, school staff, and library patrons.

Congress authorized the Emergency Connectivity Fund as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Benefits of a 1:1 Environment

COLLABORATION

Teachers will be encouraged to use the technology to allow for student exploration of new learning and to use applications that allow for collaboration. A lot of kids process by talking and listening to other people's thinking about problem solving; this is a powerful way to ignite learning. Technology is uniquely suited to accomplish this process in a documented manner.

FUTURE FOCUS

Technology creates an experience that solidifies learning and helps students to solve problems we have yet to even imagine. Today's top 10 jobs did not even exist in 2010; and our students are set to enter a very competitive global workforce when they leave us. 1-to-1 reinforces the 21st Century skills necessary to compete in today's world and prepare for what lies ahead.

The ability to communicate and critically think are skills that are taught while using technology. No matter what occupation a student chooses, those skills will transfer.

DIFFERENTIATION

1-to-1 allows teachers to better meet students where they are at and differentiate learning for them or tailor assignments to different types of learners. It's also an opportunity for students to learn in a way more suited to them, and gives every student the chance to showcase their skills to the best of their ability and to continually improve.

Top Ten Do's and Don'ts for your MPS Chromebook

1. Do arrive at school with your Chromebook and have it fully charged.
2. Do keep your Chromebook free from any markings, or stickers and do not remove the identification sticker.
3. Do return any abandoned Chromebooks to the Media Center.
4. Do report it to the Media Center immediately, if your Chromebook does not work properly or is broken.
5. Do remember that you are financially responsible for any intentional damage to your Chromebook.
6. Do not bring your Chromebook charger to school, leave it at home and charge your device there.
7. Do not carry your Chromebook by the screen, while open, and especially not operate it near food or beverage.
8. Do not close your device with anything inside the lid of the device, it could break the screen.
9. Do not leave your Chromebook unattended.
10. Do not have or use any other student's Chromebook.