Wabasha-Kellogg Schools
Digital Learning Program
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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

- Each year all full time W-K students in grade 7 and grade 10 (plus any 7-12 grade full time W-K students new to W-K) will have the option to receive an amount, presently $150, from Wabasha-Kellogg to offset the cost of purchasing a new computing device for school work at W-K for three years. Grade 7 & 10 are the only two years that this is offered to returning students.

- If any of the eligible students mentioned above do not wish to receive $150 from Wabasha-Kellogg to offset the cost of purchasing a new computing device, they have two additional options:
    - Option 1 – They can lease a Chromebook from the school for $60 a year and this would include the 3 year, 3 claim accidental damage/manufacturer warranties. This device can be taken home during the school year.
    - 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. .

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 $150 from the school to purchase a device from a retailer (not W-K).
    - The student/parent owns the device and the device is not managed by the school
- Option 2**(Not available after the 25-26 school year)**: The student/parent takes the $150 from the school to purchase a Basic Chromebook from W-K.
    - The student/parent owns the device, BUT the device will be managed by W-K ONLY to be able to allow the device to be used by the student for State Testing in the Spring.
- Option 3: The student/parent declines the $150 from the school and elects to lease a Chromebook for $60 per school year from the district.
    - The school owns and manages the device
- Option 4: The student/parent declines the $150 from the school 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

What are the device purchasing options for this school year?

- Purchase any device that meets the district specifications outlined later in this FAQ from Mid-July until school starts for this school year. **We recommend also purchasing a three year accidental damage warranty with the device.**
    - To be reimbursed $150 for the computing device, which will happen in late September, a paper copy or an emailed PDF copy of the sales receipt of the device along with the name of the student using the device and the name of the parent to be reimbursed must be furnished to the W-K HS Office starting the week of Fall sports practices thru the first week of school.
        - Once W-K has all the receipts from all students/parents participating in this process the W-K District Office will do a one-time procedure of creating checks and mailing them to the participating parents. This most likely will not happen until late September.

Am I required to purchase a three year Accidental Damage Protection?

- A three year Accidental Damage Protection is typically offered through Best Buy and other technology sources and it is optional. You know your children best and will need to determine if it is worth the risk of not purchasing the protection and paying for out of warranty and accidental damage repairs, replacing the device or switching to renting a school device if the device you purchase has issues.

Can I buy multiple devices for my student to get multiple vouchers?

- No; you can only claim one $150 voucher for purchasing one device per student.

What is the preferred device to purchase?

- All Chromebooks, Windows PCs and Macbook devices will satisfy the needs of school work.

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 $60 a year and this would include the 3 year, 3 claim accidental damage/manufacturer warranty. This device is school owned and school managed, but can be taken home by the student during the school year.
- For students that qualify for free/reduced lunch services, they can apply for a district scholarship to help offset the yearly lease of $60. 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 a device.

We didn't take advantage of the school offer of $150 when we had the opportunity. Can we still do it?

- This is a great question, unfortunately you can only get the $150 when it is offered at the beginning of the school year when the student is starting 7th and 10th grade. We want the students to have their new device by the time school starts and to only go through the process of writing checks once.

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.

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
    - 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 system of being paid $150, 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 rented devices and the Basic Chromebook that W-K has to offer have a 3 year, 3 claim accidental damage/manufacturer warranties built in. It's up to students/parents that purchse their own devices on whether they have purchase an Accidental Damage warranty. 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 for the Basic Chromebooks purchased directly from W-K?

- As previously stated, all these devices have a 3 year, 3 claim accidental damage/manufacturer warranties built in. In the case of an accidental damage or manufacturer defect, the student/parent would contact Mike Schumacher at W-K. In most cases you will have to pay for shipping to the repair center but it is provided for the return mailing. Depending on parts availability, it typically takes 4-5 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.

What if the Basic Chromebook purchased directly from W-K is totaled out and beyond repair?

- Great question! If the device is damaged beyond repair and is considered 'totaled,' and the damages are not deemed accidental then warranty would not cover such damages.

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.

Who pays for accessories?

- Each device will be supplied with a charger. 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.
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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 Chad Pederson at (651) 565-3559 ext 250 or cpederson@wkfalcons.org