

ONE-TO-ONE CHROMEBOOK INITIATIVE

Technology Vision Statement

We will strive to provide educational opportunities that will engage every student and build capacity in order to prepare students with current and future competencies to compete and excel in a complex, ever-changing world.

The One-to-One Chromebook Initiative

As part of the vision stated above, and ongoing district technology planning, Central Community High School will be introducing a One-to-One Chromebook Initiative for all students during the 2017-18 school year. The goal of this technology instructional platform is to help students strengthen their 21st century skills and present them with a transformational learning experience that provides students with around-the-clock access to learning. At the beginning of the 2017-18 school year, each student enrolled at Central will receive a Chromebook for school and continued home use. It requires that every student and teacher involved in the program have direct access to a personal computing device at all times. The use of technology does not diminish the vital role of the teacher or the school as an institution. It simply transforms teachers and the school environment from directors of learning to facilitators of the process. A One-to-One Chromebook program represents the most comprehensive technology integration program available for instructional purposes.

Why are we doing this?

The One-to-One Chromebook Initiative aims to extend beyond providing a solid knowledge of the latest hardware, software, and applications. Students now have greater opportunities to direct their own learning, access more information, and engage a larger community in intellectual discourse. Learning and studying are no longer restricted by the pages in a book, or the walls of a classroom, or the hours in a school day. As part of this program, the school district hopes to strengthen students' understanding of good digital citizenship and bring awareness to the digital footprint they create in every email, post, interaction, and photo that they share. Working in a One-to-One Chromebook environment, with supervision from staff, students will learn how that footprint can impact them for decades to come, and hopefully, they will become more mindful of their interactions in a digital world.

What is a Chromebook?

A Chromebook is a laptop unit that runs off Google's web-based Chrome operating system and allows students to store and access information on the cloud (free digital storage space accessible from any Internet connection). These laptops also incorporate some of the best features of Google such as email, calendar, and Docs which will provide greater ease and ability for communication and collaboration with other students and also between students and staff. Chromebooks are truly educational tools that change the interaction between teacher and student along with enabling greater access to a new world of information. As a One-to-One platform school, we will ensure that every student in every class will have the opportunity to learn in an engaging environment reflective of the ever-changing world around them.

Where are we now?

We are excited about this great opportunity for our students and look forward to seeing the One-to-One Chromebook devices in place next year. Through the proper implementation of technology, all students will have greater access to the curriculum, and teachers will have a wider array of methodologies to use in the delivery of instruction. No doubt, many of you have already seen changes in many of our classes with the usage of Chromebooks already utilized at the school. Many of our teachers are already making use of Chromebooks, Google Classroom, interactive instructional methods, communication with students, and new technology. Our plan is to make this more universal, more extensive, and more possible for students in school as well as in the home environment with a personal Chromebook.

During the 2015-16 school year, a committee was created to review the district's existing technology usage, research requirements to support next generation computer-based assessments, design a technological framework, and review a shift to the usage of technology as a more integrated tool of instruction. As we have researched these topics, the committee has seen the dynamic new possibilities that a One-to-One Chromebook environment could provide.

At the onset of last year, and in advance of the 2016-17 school year, Central purchased several new Chromebooks for classroom use on a check-out basis by teachers. The school also provided several training sessions in which teachers received instruction on Google Classroom and Chromebook usage. Many have implemented these instructional techniques in their classes. The Technology staff has also worked to implement other changes in equipment and facility. Over twenty new wireless points were added creating a system of thirty-four wireless uninterrupted service points to the infrastructure of the school and a creation of broader wireless capability. And, a wireless management console with a Chromebook management system has been put into operation for more efficient deployment and sustainability of the program.

During the 2016-17 school year, we have provided several different training sessions for our teachers and completed a study of other districts who have implemented similar programs to gain a better understanding of expectations. The Central Technology Team has reviewed a great deal of information and created target goals for this program into a policy handbook that will guide our One-to-One program and its implementation. The Board of Education has approved the policy and made a commitment to the purchase and deployment of equipment next year. We are currently planning educational programs for our teachers, parents, and students that will explain the transition to a Chromebook and Google Classroom environment.

Since we know there will be many questions, we will continue to develop this segment of our website to provide specific information related to this initiative, along with the policies and procedures we develop. Central wants to provide you with all information regarding the use of Chromebooks that our students are currently using. And, we want to develop the best possible implementation of a One-to-One Chromebook platform in conjunction with general technology integration in our school community for years to come.

Where are we going?

Over the course of the 2016-17 school year, we will continue planning for the implementation of the One-to-One Chromebook Initiative. The goals of the program are to make it cost effective and least

burdensome to families, but still feasible to the school district. For that purpose, we are committing to a lease-to-own type of program that will allow students access to the devices over four years and then to be their own at graduation. Parents will be able to make payments through a fee structure that allows for their child's access to the equipment and system without being inundated with overly expensive upfront costs. Central will be making a considerable commitment and investment to what we feel is a necessary instructional opportunity for the modern day student. We have also received a commitment from two support groups at Central. The Committee to Support Central and the PAWS Organization have each approved a contribution of \$15,000 to be used for the initial investment. All parents should be appreciative of their dedication to helping kids. Our goal is to have all aspects of this program in place and implement the One-to-One Chromebook environment for all students on the first day of school in 2017-18.

Decisions have been made on the specifications and parameters for the equipment. The staff at Central will receive more training and professional development on the best integration of the Chromebook as a learning tool and their ability to facilitate student engagement. We will be educating everyone on the policies that will address the usage of Chromebooks in the classroom, the school, and in the home environment. The Technology Committee will also be sharing ways to appropriately care for the devices along with a management and maintenance plan. Parents will have access to an insurance program to protect them against major repair or replacement costs that might occur. Equipment will be purchased and prepped for dissemination over the summer. Finally, we will do everything to provide as much information as possible so that all stakeholders are prepared for a new educational system and technology based learning for next year.

How can I stay informed?

In preparation for this new initiative, we are expanding the One-to-One Chromebook Initiative webpage which can be easily accessed on the website. More information will be disseminated via the site as the program is developed. We will also attempt to communicate more directly with parents by using Skylert messages and other correspondence during the course of this school year. We are planning Open Forums on the One-to-One Chromebook program that will provide presentations on the system and information on all aspects of the initiative. This should give everyone opportunities to get information related to the use of the Chromebook, user agreements, forms, policies, and frequently asked questions regarding the One-to-One Chromebook Initiative. Please stay tuned for further information and ideas on how you can support the new platform and all of the educational opportunities for students.