

## Technology in the Middle School 2017-18

In today's educational and technological landscape, we believe it is our responsibility to provide our students with every opportunity to become independent and responsible learners; therefore, we must teach our students how to access, process, and navigate all the information available to them.

A couple of years ago seventh and eighth graders began bringing their own device. This past year every Middle School student, grades five through eight, had a device to use as a resource for learning. Currently, we are switching over from a bring your own device to a Middle School that only employs Chromebooks. Therefore, in our effort to become a single platform environment, which allows our teachers to focus on using the device as a learning tool, we are requiring a Chromebook for each student entering sixth grade. The school will be purchasing Dell Chromebooks for each sixth grade student and a \$225 fee will be added to the 2017-18 Tuition and Enrollment Agreement.

Students entering seventh grade will continue to be able to use the Chromebook they used in sixth grade.

Only students entering eighth grade are grandfathered into using the device they had used previous to the Middle School switching to Chromebooks.

For students entering grade five, ESD will be providing a school owned Chromebook that will be used during the school day. It will be a way to ease into the responsibility that comes along with caring for and using a device as part of their everyday education. Therefore, there is no reason to purchase one for school if your child is going to be a fifth grader next year. However, your child will need access to a computer at home. If you need a home computer for schoolwork, buying the same model as we do for our students is a great option. I will be more than happy to share the specific model once it is purchased.

For new students entering ESD, we are so happy that you are joining our community. There is no need to worry about a school computer if you are going to be in fifth or sixth grade next year. However, if you are an incoming seventh or eighth grader, you will need a device. For seventh grade, a Chromebook is required, but for eighth grade any laptop device will be allowed.

If there are any questions, please feel free to reach out to me or Mary.

Regards,

Mike Jenkins  
Head of Middle School

Mary Hansell  
Director of Educational Technology