



Red Clay Consolidated School District 1:1 Chromebook Initiative FAQs

Chromebook FAQs

What is a Chromebook?

A Chromebook is a laptop of a different breed. Instead of Windows or Mac OS. Chromebooks run Google's Chrome OS. These machines are designed to be used primarily while connected to the Internet, with most applications and documents living in the cloud. You should find that it starts up more quickly than a PC or laptop because it does not run many processes. Most anything you can do via the internet you can do on a Chromebook.

Why Chromebook?

Chromebooks are an affordable Internet appliance that will get students onto the Internet and to utilize the Google Apps suite. The Google ecosystem provides a robust, free for students and educators, cloud-based platform that is a good fit for achieving Common Core and other curriculum goals to increase student engagement, further involve students in active learning, and provide students with 21st Century skills such as communication, critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration, along with content expertise. Because of their tremendous adoption rates in K12, we can be assured that Chromebooks will be compatible with major web-based applications moving forward. At the same time, teachers and students are not locked into the device per se, as Google Apps can be accessed from PCs, Macs, iPads, Androids, etc.

Which students will be getting Chromebooks?

All students in grades 2 through 12 have access to a Chromebook. Students in grades 6 through 12 are able to take their devices home during the school year. Students in grades 2 through 5 keep their Chromebooks at school in a cart in their classroom.

How long will these devices last before we need to buy new Chromebooks?

Chromebooks have very few moving parts in them and generate very little heat. Therefore, the life expectancy — so long as they are treated appropriately — is fairly significant. Five years or more is not unrealistic. Additionally, the devices have powerful processors, adequate memory, and automatically update the latest software and security features without anything needing to be done by the student.

What kinds of things will students be doing with these devices?

Students will be creating documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and projects. They will be able to do so collaboratively because documents can be shared among the users. Students will be completing assignments online and then uploading them again online to their teachers through Schoology. Because of the constant internet connection, students will be able to collaborate not only with immediate classmates, but with content and other learners around the world.

How will the checkout/check in process work?

Students and parents in grades 6 through 12 must read, sign, and return the Chromebook Acceptable Use Policy and RCCSD Chromebook Protection Plan. Chromebooks in grades 2 through 12 will be assigned to students by the school librarian.

How much do I have to pay for this?

The Chromebook is being loaned to each 6 through 12th grade student. The Chromebook, like a textbook, is RCCSD property and students are responsible for the care and condition of the device and must return the Chromebook when informed to do so.

What is my student's obligation with this technology?

The student's Chromebook is an important learning tool and is for educational purposes only. In order to take your Chromebook home each day, students in grades 6 through 12 are required to accept terms found in the One-to-One Technology Agreements and The District Acceptable Use Policy in the Student Code of Conduct. These documents can be on the Red Clay Consolidated School District's website under Technology Support for Families.

What happens to the Chromebook if my student changes schools between years or during an academic year?

The student will turn in their Chromebook when/if they leave the school (just as they do their textbooks now).

Will devices be kept by students over summer?

No. Devices will be turned in at the end of the school year so the district can do maintenance on them. Devices will be re-issued at the start of the school year to continuing students. Devices issued to students who leave the district (move, graduate, etc.) will be reformatted and re-issued to other students on an as-needed basis.

Home Use FAQs

Will the Chromebooks ever leave the building?

Middle school and high school students (grades 6-12) will be allowed to take the Chromebooks home for school-related use. Chromebooks for elementary students (grades 2-5) will be kept at school. All students must review the Chromebook Policy and Authorized Use Policy from the Code of Conduct signed by themselves and a parent before they are issued a Chromebook. Students taking Chromebooks home must participate in the RCCSD Chromebook Protection Plan.

If a student will be bringing a Chromebook home, but we don't have internet access at our house. What is my child supposed to do?

Students will continue to have access to school libraries and other areas of the school before and after the school day, as they do now. There are also numerous wireless "Hot Spots" in the local area. Public libraries and other vendors often offer free wifi. District wifi can also be accessed outside from any school's property. For other home internet options please see your school principal.

Furthermore, students can also view Google documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and drawings even when you don't have an Internet connection. You're also able to edit Google documents, presentations, and drawings offline.

My child forgot to charge their Chromebook before school. Now what?

Middle school and high school students are expected to charge their Chromebooks nightly at home and bring them to school fully charged. If one is available, students who do not bring a charged Chromebook back to school may be issued a loaner device for the day, which cannot be taken home. Schools also have charging lockers and many teachers have chargers readily available in their classrooms for students to use in their classrooms. Loaners may not be available and your student may be without the Chromebook for the day. They may be able to charge the Chromebook in the library during lunch or other appropriate times.

Chromebooks in elementary schools (grades 2-5) will be kept in the classrooms and utilize charging stations.

Will students be able to print at school/home?

You can print at school on a desktop computer in the school's library and also from the Chromebook using Google Cloud Print. The same is true at home. Printing from Chromebooks requires [Google Cloud Print](#) setup.

Can I run or install other applications – such as Microsoft Office or Photoshop?

Chromebooks do not have desktop applications, such as Office, Photoshop, Premiere/Final Cut Studio, or even iTunes. However, there are free, lower powered substitutes such as Pixlr, YouTube, and Google Music for those aforementioned apps. Chromebooks use web apps and websites, so you can't install traditional software on them. However, it will run Google's own applications for word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, and email. These applications will open and save files in Office format. It will be important to explore, understand, and share these alternatives with students.

Chromebook Protection Plan FAQs

Am I required to participate in the Chromebook Protection Plan?

Red Clay Consolidated School District recognizes that with the implementation of the 1:1 Chromebook Initiative there is a need to protect the investment for the district, as well as the student and parent/guardian. Therefore, all students grades 6 through 12 taking a device home will be required to participate in RCCSD Chromebook Protection Plan.

What if I can't afford the Chromebook Protection Plan?

All students taken devices out of the building are required to participate in the Chromebook Protection Plan and pay a non-refundable \$20 fee. If you are unable to, please speak with your school principal to work out an arrangement.

What happens if the device is damaged or lost?

Students and parents will be responsible for district-owned technology property that is issued to them, just as they are for other district-owned items such as textbooks, calculators, cameras, athletics equipment or library books. The district will repair or replace the device, but students and parents will be responsible for the cost of those repairs or replaced devices in accordance with RCCSD Chromebook Protection Plan.

How would you go about repairing a Chromebook that is not functioning?

Damaged or non-functioning devices should be turned in to the student's library (middle school and high school) or teacher (elementary schools) so a repair can be started. District technology staff members can repair many problems in-house, which may take a day or two. Other problems may require the devices being sent out for repair, which can take several days or perhaps longer. Students who are without their device due to repairs will be issued a loaner to use during school only. Loaner devices must be returned to the library at the end of the school day.

Do repair fees need to be paid up front?

Paying for repairs is preferred to be done up front, but in certain situations arrangements can be made for payment plans so students can continue using their device.

What if the device fails through no fault of my child's?

Chromebooks will be under warranty the first year for those devices where functionality is an issue because of faulty parts. The District will be prepared and able to replace devices as needed.

What if another student damages my student's device?

In such cases, circumstances will be investigated on a case-by-case basis. School administration and the School Resource Officer may be involved if it is suspected to be an intentional act or act of vandalism.

Google Apps for Education (G Suite) FAQs**What login will students use to get into the device operating system?**

Students will each have a district assigned G Suite account that is their primary login and username. Students can change their password, but they cannot change their username. The district cannot recover passwords and students should remember them to ensure successful logins. The district can only reset passwords.

What is Google Apps for Education (G Suite)?

Google Apps for Education (G Suite) is a core suite of productivity applications that Google offers to schools and educational institutions for FREE. These communication and collaboration apps include Gmail, Calendar, Drive, Docs and Sites, and a G Suite account unlocks access to dozens of other collaborative tools supported by Google. All of these applications exist completely online (or in the cloud), meaning that all creations can be accessed from any device with an Internet connection.

Will all students have an email address?

No, only students in grades 9 through 12 will have a district assigned email.