

September 2, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the start of the 2021-2022 school year! As is the case every summer, we have been busy with preparations to ensure a successful transition back to school. Specifically, I would like to take this opportunity to share a change regarding school technology and your child(ren).

The past year has taught us many lessons, one of which is the importance of readily available technology for families. During the 2020-2021 school year, many Memorial School students had a school based chromebook as well as an “at home” chromebook / charger to account for the unpredictability that accompanied the pandemic, healthy and safety protocols, etc. While this approach allowed us to get through the school year, it was not an efficient strategy or long term solution.

We are fortunate to have the opportunity to update Memorial School technology this fall with the purchase of new chromebooks for students as a result of the second COVID education relief grant. Older technology will be removed from the school, leaving each student with one chromebook and one charger. As is the case at the secondary level, **we will be asking Memorial School students to transport their technology between school and home each day**, allowing students to more easily access school assignments from home as well as allow the district more flexibility in the case of unexpected changes to school format. (This may include the pandemic, snow days, heat days, and other unusual circumstances.)

This change is similar to the approach used by other area districts at this age level. As we work to create students who are able to demonstrate C.A.R.E.S. (Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy, Self Direction) in and out of school, the additional responsibility of transporting school technology to and from school as well as charging the chromebook each night feels appropriate. Please support us by working with your child to find a safe place to charge the chromebook each night and to help remind your child to bring the chromebook to school each day as we work to build this new habit.

Lastly, while we will provide students with their new chromebook and charger during the first week of school, we are also in the process of providing families with the opportunity to purchase an **optional**, but highly encouraged protection plan later this fall. This plan will protect families in the case of unexpected damages to your child’s chromebook. You will be notified when this information becomes available.

Appreciatively,

Ryan McCluskey