

HHS Chromebook Initiative: A Guide for Parents/Guardians

v. 2016-2017

HHS has received funding to begin the transition to a one-to-one (often written as 1:1) Chromebook program. This program, when fully implemented, will provide a Chromebook computer to every HHS student as a part of their educational supplies. This guide is written to help parents understand the Chromebook Initiative and what it means for students and families. Full details of Chromebook use can be found in the [HHS Chromebook Care and Use Guide](#).



What is a Chromebook?

A Chromebook is a type of laptop computer, designed to run efficiently on lightweight, inexpensive hardware. Chromebooks have a screen, keyboard, and all-day battery, and use the Chrome web browser to visit web pages, to create documents, spreadsheets, slideshows, and to perform other classwork-related activities. While perhaps not as versatile as a Windows or Macintosh laptop, its inexpensive price tag makes it a very popular choice for schools as they consider buying one for every student.

Who receives a Chromebook?

The plan, when fully implemented, will be to provide every student with a Chromebook. However, it may take us two or more years for full implementation (and funding).

School Year	Chromebooks provided to
2016-2017	Grades 9 & 10 (Classes of 2019 and 2020)
2017-2018	Grades 9-12 (Classes of 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021) <i>PENDING FUNDING</i>

What does this cost families?

At HHS, Chromebooks will be issued to students at no cost, in the same way that a textbook is issued. Students will be required to take care of the Chromebook, and bring it fully charged to school each day. Like any borrowed equipment, students are also responsible for any damage to the Chromebook; however, HHS offers and recommends that families purchase annual insurance.

What is the insurance plan?



At its simplest, students are responsible for any damage incurred to the Chromebook, just as they would when issued any school textbook, library book, sports equipment, etc. However, HHS realizes that, because of a Chromebook's complexity and expense, an insurance program is the best way for families to guard against accidental damage, as often happens when electronics are in the hands of teenagers.

The annual insurance for the Chromebook is \$40 per device per year. This covers accidental damage such as cracked screens, broken keyboards, damaged chargers, and other hardware issues. The maximum damage covered by the insurance is up to the full replacement cost of one Chromebook. Families who choose not to purchase insurance, or experience damage that exceeds the maximum amount, will be charged for repairs. See the [HHS Chromebook Insurance Plan](#) webpage for details.

Who owns the Chromebook?

The Chromebook is owned by the Holliston School Department, and is only issued to students for their use in education-related activities. Chromebooks will be issued to students at the beginning of the school year in August or September, and collected at the end of the school year in June.

What if my student prefers other laptops over Chromebooks?

Many students may have personal preferences for laptops that run different operating systems. However, to improve curriculum planning and lesson instruction, students will be expected to use their Chromebooks in school for their schoolwork, unless specially directed by the teacher. If they feel it is necessary, students may choose to bring a personal laptop to school *in addition* to the Chromebook. However, teachers will plan units and lessons based on students having Chromebooks, so every student should bring their Chromebooks every day.

What are the student expectations with a Chromebook?

When issued a Chromebook, students will be expected to:

- Bring the Chromebook to school every day
- Be prepared to use the Chromebook in each class
- Charge the Chromebook at home every night
- Take care of the Chromebook (see the [Chromebook Care and Use Guide](#)), to make a best effort to prevent damage or loss
- Report any damage or malfunction immediately

How does my student pick up the Chromebook?

You will need to complete the [Chromebook Loan Agreement](#) form and submit it (along with a check for the recommended insurance program) to the HHS Main Office. Details about deadlines and dates can be found on the [HHS Website](#).