



# Vision 156 Innovation Plan and 1:1 Chromebook Program

## Frequently Asked Questions

As MCHS begins the 1:1 student device initiative, you may have questions about its implementation. Below are some key questions and responses to help inform you:

- ❖ **What is the “Vision 156” Innovation Plan?** In July of 2016, MCHS embarked on a year of research and planning that would become the “Vision 156” Innovation Plan. The goal is to systematically modernize the teaching and learning environment in this district to ensure that our student have the 21st Century skills and abilities to have all doors open to them for future college and careers. Several elements of the plan have been implemented and are underway in the 2017-18 school year. The plan is comprehensive and includes:
  - ❑ District-wide adoption of a learning management system (Schoology)
  - ❑ Addition and modification to curriculum in the form of engaging new course offerings
  - ❑ Improvement of physical spaces around our campuses for learning
  - ❑ Exploration and use of new teaching methodologies that emphasize personalized learning
  - ❑ Addition of professional development opportunities and coaching for teachers
  - ❑ A 1:1 Chromebook Program for students to ensure anytime, anywhere access to learning
- ❖ **What is the MCHS 1:1 Chromebook Program?** This is the name of the instructional initiative that uses traditional instruction as well as 1 to 1 computers to personalize instruction, help our students develop problem solving skills, increase the range of communication skills and allow for greater student choice and exploration of ideas.
- ❖ **Why is the MCHS 1:1 Chromebook Program an instructional initiative, not a technology initiative?** The goal of this program is to strengthen students’ learning. Research shows that just incorporating technology will have little or no effect or even a negative effect on student learning, so how we use technology is the key. Personalization, problem solving, communication and student choice are the most important goals of this initiative. The technology allows those elements to happen.
- ❖ **Why did the district choose Chromebooks over other potential devices?** MCHS has an existing fleet of chromebooks and will be staying with the chromebook for new purchases. The chromebook is a device that will provide the most comprehensive technology solution for students and teachers at MCHS. This device allows teachers to support students while using the device at school and push out applications that students will use for class work. Factors that led to the decision to use chromebooks include but are not limited to: integration with Google Apps for Education, management tools, integrated keyboard, ease of maintenance, 8+ hour battery life, and cost.

- ❖ **Why will juniors and seniors have a different chromebook than freshmen and sophomores?** MCHS currently has about 1500 classroom-based chromebooks varying in age. These will be issued to juniors and seniors. Our initial purchase of new chromebooks will be for freshmen and sophomores. As technology changes, MCHS will annually review the options for new chromebook models as we purchase for each incoming freshmen class.
- ❖ **What happens with the chromebooks once received by students?** Once issued, the chromebook becomes the responsibility of the student. Students will be expected to follow MCHS' 1:1 Handbook Guidelines as well as the Acceptable Use Policy. Each chromebook will be assigned to one specific student and will be tagged accordingly. Students should use their own chromebook and never use a chromebook belonging to another student or while logged in as someone else. Students will retain their chromebooks each summer for continued learning, summer school needs, and access to a computer.
- ❖ **Can students take chromebooks home?** Yes. It is expected that students will be able to use their chromebook at home and return with it to school **fully** charged each day. Chromebooks are instructional tools much like a textbook, so they will be used at home and at school. Students who do not have WiFi at home will be able to work offline with their device to complete necessary assignments.
- ❖ **By having a chromebook, does that mean there will be no more textbooks?** No, students will still continue to have paper resources such as textbooks, but their availability and use will begin to diminish over time as the district adopts more digital instructional tools. Some content areas have texts with online resources and others have begun to use open, digital, resources.
- ❖ **Will the chromebook have security that is filtered at home as well as at school?** Yes, the chromebooks will be subject to content filters by a product called Blocks. All chromebook use will pass through Blocks before reaching out to the internet. This will occur regardless of the WiFi or network connection the student establishes. Blocks will filter inappropriate content by category and by specific URLs deemed inappropriate. However, no filter is 100% effective. We request parents establish safe and monitored chromebook use at home. This may include:
  - Only using the chromebook in common areas in your home.
  - Not using the chromebook in the student's room.
  - Charging the chromebook in the kitchen or other common area each night.
  - Turning the chromebook off at a reasonable time each night.
  - Your child only using the chromebook on the main floor of your home.
- ❖ **What will be the cost to students/families?** There is no cost to the students for their use of the chromebook. There is no increase to student fees but students/families are responsible for any repair costs described in the MCHS 1:1 handbook guidelines.
- ❖ **What if my student can not get WiFi at home?** We will teach the students how to download assignments and activities at school before they leave for the afternoon by working offline. Most assignments, especially those in Google, if downloaded previously can be worked on at home without the need for WiFi. The district also has low-cost options for WiFi connection that families could choose

to purchase. The district will also partner with local merchants with free wifi for customers and the public library.

- ❖ **Can families opt out of a chromebook?** No. All students will be required to use a district-issued chromebook for their academic studies. These devices will be integral to classroom instruction, and without a device, students will be unable to fully participate in classroom activities and assignments. Just as textbooks are required for class today, a chromebook will be required for use in class in the future.
- ❖ **What happens if my child's chromebook is damaged?** Your child should take the device to the tech center immediately. The device will be assessed by the technology office and a replacement loaner will be issued to the student. The campus technology staff should be the only people who service district-owned chromebooks.
- ❖ **Will we be financially responsible if the device is damaged or stolen?** Yes. The parents and students will be responsible however there will be a low cost coverage option that parents can purchase through the district to offset much of the potential liability. If the student finds their device lost or stolen they should go to the main office immediately and file a police report.



- ❖ **What happens if the chromebook is not charged for the day?** Students will have access to charging areas in the common spaces of the building, but this should be an infrequent need. If a student has a chromebook that has lost charge they can receive a loaner for the day in the technology center.

- ❖ **What will happen to my student's chromebook at the end of their high school career?** The family/student will have the option to purchase the chromebook for a low price that will depend on model and age of the chromebook. If the device is not purchased by the student, it will be returned to become part of the district loaner fleet.



- ❖ **How can I learn more information about the 1:1 Program?** The MCHS website includes information available for parents and students. This will be updated as we continue the planning and implementation of the 1:1 Chromebook Program. Please check out the website or this FAQ's live document that may be updated through the year.

