



August, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Morgan Hill Unified School District is continuing its launch of an exciting learning opportunity for our students this August as part of the District's Technology Integration Plan. Each freshman and sophomore student will be issued a Chromebook for his/her exclusive use at school and at home.

This initiative was made possible with Measure G funds and aims to increase student engagement, learning, and college and career readiness. The Chromebook will serve as a tool both inside the classroom as well as outside the classroom to foster critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity. In addition, the Chromebook will be used to promote the development of skills that students will need to collect, evaluate, and share a wide array of information and cultivate an innovative mindset.

What is a Chromebook?

The Chromebook is a lightweight laptop that runs on the Chrome OS operating system. These devices are designed to be used primarily while connected to the Internet, with most applications and data residing on the Web (in the cloud) rather than on the machine itself like other laptops.

Connecting to the Internet

MHUSD has recently upgraded your student's classroom Internet connection to help insure that all students will be able to logon to the Internet during classroom lessons. For students who do not have Internet at home, Chromebooks can also function quite well offline. Students will be provided instruction on how to access their documents offline in their classes.

Every Student Gets a Chromebook

Every student will receive a Chromebook regardless if they already have a laptop or desktop at home. As the year progresses, teachers will begin using Chromebooks in class more and more each week. One of the biggest advantages of the Chromebook is that it boots up in eight seconds or less. Furthermore, juniors will take the Smarter Balanced assessment in the spring with this device, so it is important that students are familiar with their Chromebooks prior to that time. In this way, students will be better able to concentrate on the content of the test rather than the functionality of the Chromebook.

MHUSD.ORG Email Account

In order to login in the Chromebook and access documents for classroom lessons, students will be given a MHUSD.org email address and password. The MHUSD email address will also enable students to take full advantage of the Google Apps for Education. These apps will be the main applications used during this year.

Getting a Chromebook

To receive a Chromebook, parents/guardians and students will need to complete a Chromebook Acceptable Use Agreement. Please review this document carefully with your student, and sign, date, and return the signature page by Friday, August 14, 2015.

We will be handing out Chromebooks to students according to the following schedule:

- Sophomores at Sobrato High School on Tuesday, August 18th & Wednesday, August 19th. (2 days since they are on a block schedule)
- Sophomores at Live Oak High School on Thursday, August 20th.
- Freshmen at Sobrato High School on Thursday, August 27th & Friday, August 28th (2 days since they are on a block schedule)
- Freshmen at Live Oak High School on Thursday, August 27th.

Chromebook Responsibility

Please note that students are responsible for the care and condition of their Chromebook, just as they are for any instructional materials issued to them. If they lose or damage it, they will be responsible for its replacement.

Chromebook Insurance

Knowing of this liability, your family might consider a reasonable insurance option we have negotiated with Worth Ave. Insurance. Visit our custom insurance webpage at my.worthavegroup.com/mhusdca%5C, designed for our families to investigate and purchase insurance for their student's Chromebook. This is an optional service. Note that this insurance information is also posted on the District Website under Educational Technology at: mhusd.org/technology.

Chromebook Care

In addition, your student's teacher will review how to best take care of the Chromebook. Some of the tips that will be covered include:

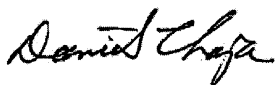
- Not placing the Chromebook on uneven surfaces or on top of blankets, beds, sofas, pillow, lap, etc., so as not to block the air flow of the device
- Not eating or drinking near the device
- Following appropriate cleaning tips
- Not exposing the Chromebook to direct sunlight or extreme temperatures for extended periods of time
- Not placing heavy object on top of the Chromebook
- Not placing the Chromebook in an overstuffed backpack, or leaning on or sitting on a backpack with a Chromebook inside
- Being mindful of the Chromebook's location at all times; never leaving the Chromebook unattended in public areas
- Always taking time to secure the Chromebook when not in use
- Not leaving the Chromebook in plain sight in any vehicle, even if the vehicle is locked

Talking Points for You and Your Students

Please also review these tips with your student. Your assistance in helping to reinforce these precautions with your student will help your student to be responsible and care for his/her Chromebook. Parents and students are also encouraged to purchase a Chromebook case to protect and personalize their device. Note that dress code rules also apply for the Chromebook carrying case.

In addition, please remind your student to charge the Chromebook each night and bring it to class each day, so that it will always be available for classroom use. Together we can help create meaningful learning opportunities for your student today and in the future.

Best regards,



Daniel Chaja
Director of Informational Technology & Enrollment