



Evanston Township High School District 202

Informational and Instructional Technology Department • 1600 Dodge Avenue • Evanston, Illinois 60201

ETHS 1:1 Digital Learning Initiative Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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General Questions

Why did ETHS choose Chromebooks?

After piloting a variety of mobile technology device carts (i.e., Chromebooks, iPads, PC laptops) the IIT department determined that the Google Chromebook is the device that will provide the most comprehensive technology solution for students and teachers at ETHS. This device allows ETHS teachers to support students while using the device at school and push out applications that students will use for course 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, cost, and performance in existing classroom carts at ETHS.

When will the Chromebooks be distributed to students?

Chromebooks will be distributed to all incoming freshmen at Freshman Orientation days in August. Students who do not attend Orientation or who transfer in later in the school year will receive their Chromebooks within the first few days after they begin classes.

What happens if a student transfers to ETHS?

If the student transfers to ETHS, then the student will be issued a Chromebook. Exact device type and model may vary depending on supply. The student may be offered an option to purchase a new device for an additional cost.

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 the Chromebook User Guidelines as well as the Acceptable Use Policy.

Will students be able to keep their Chromebooks over the summer?

Yes, students are expected to maintain their device over the summer and should return in the fall with a fully charged, working Chromebook. The ChromeZone will be open during summer school hours for any repairs, warranty, or insurance claims.

Cost, Purchasing, & Retention**What will be the cost to students/families?**

The projected cost of the Chromebook, management software, and protective case is approximately \$300. ETHS District 202 will share the purchase cost with ETHS student families who are issued Chromebooks. The annual technology fee and activity fee for incoming freshmen will reflect this cost.

What about families that qualify for school fee waivers?

Students whose families qualify for fee waivers at ETHS will be issued a Chromebook on loan at no cost. The device remains the property of Evanston Township High School District 202 until the student graduates from ETHS.

Will this decrease textbooks/materials costs?

The availability of textbooks in electronic format may help bring costs down, but this is not the driving force behind the 1:1 Digital Learning Initiative. ETHS District 202 is supporting the increasing use of digital textbooks and content whenever possible.

What happens with the Chromebooks if a student leaves ETHS or transfers out of D202?

Students who transfer out of ETHS District 202 prior to graduation, or leave ETHS District 202 for any reason prior to graduation, must return the district-issued Chromebook to ETHS District 202 at the time of exit. There will be no refund of technology and activity fees paid. Upon transferring out of or leaving ETHS District 202 for other reasons prior to graduation, students and their families may choose to pay for the remaining balance of the district-issued Chromebook and the device will become theirs to own. If an ETHS student family has paid the

technology and activity fees for a total of four (4) years, the Chromebook will become the property of the student and their family.

What happens with the Chromebooks after students graduate ETHS?

District-issued Chromebooks that are paid in full are the property of the students and their families upon graduation from ETHS or completion of four (4) years at ETHS. They will be re-configured so that they will work with any Google account.

In the Classroom

How are students expected to use the Chromebooks during the school day?

The Chromebooks have a feature that allows teachers to check on student use, live, in the classroom and to determine appropriate use of the device. There will be little time for recreational usage during classes.

How will teachers deal with classes that have some students with a Chromebook and others without them?

ETHS has scheduled a staggered deployment of Chromebooks over the next four years. Students who do not have Chromebooks will continue to have access to computers at ETHS. Classes with mixed grade levels will have access to more computers than in previous years, because currently-existing mobile carts of Chromebooks, iPads, and PC laptops will continue to be available for use by students in the upper grades. ETHS computer labs and media centers will also have increased availability because of reduced need for them by the incoming students who have Chromebooks. For the 2016-2017 school year, all ETHS students will be issued Chromebooks and thus have access to computers anytime, anywhere.

Will all teachers receive a Chromebook?

Subject to availability, teachers will be offered a choice of a mobile device, one of which will be a Chromebook for use in the classroom (also for use as a student loaner) after completion of ChromeCamp. The Chrome browser installed on all teacher workstations and school-issued laptops will replicate nearly all the features of a Chromebook.

Are teachers required to use Chromebooks in class?

Teachers are encouraged to integrate technology into their classroom instruction if it will benefit student learning.

Practices and Procedure

Can a student bring his/her own device to use in class?

No. All students will be issued a Chromebook that is configured to the ETHS network, and all devices must comply with the ETHS Acceptable Use Policy. The use of multiple devices that operate differently and with an endless combination of configurations would make it quite challenging for teachers to plan and implement lessons. In addition, the district-issued Chromebook will be configured to allow for over-the-air installation of apps, extensions, and bookmarks, as well as software that allows for teachers to monitor usage during class.

Can a student bring his/her own Chromebook to use in class?

No. Please see above. All devices must be configured to the ETHS network.

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 were required for class in previous years, a Chromebook will be required for use in class today and in the future.

Technical

How will ETHS handle technical support for the large influx of devices?

The ChromeZone (a student-run technical support center) will be located in the A/V Media Center (second floor, H-Hall). Students will help handle repairs, issue loaners, and perform maintenance on all Chromebooks as well as assist with other help desk ticket items as needed. The ChromeZone also serves as a classroom for the Information Technology Internship (ITI) class.

Will the school be able to filter the Internet when the student is off campus?

Evanston Township High School District 202 is in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and maintains a content filter and firewall for all Internet-enabled computers and equipment. Regardless of physical location (at school, at home, in a public space with WiFi service), the Chromebooks will have all Internet traffic monitored and filtered by the district. Additionally, we ask for parent support and cooperation in monitoring student online activity outside of ETHS.

What happens to my data if I lose my Chromebook?

Very little information is stored on the Chromebook. A student's documents, emails, apps, and extensions will be associated to their student Google Drive profile, which is accessible from any computer that has access to the Internet.

What if students do not have wireless Internet at home?

Chromebooks have capabilities for offline use. This includes the ability to access Gmail and Google Drive. In addition, free public wireless (WiFi) is available in many locations, and we will provide a list of these locations to students. Comcast is currently offering an Internet Essentials plan at a small fee for families that have students who qualify to receive free or reduced lunch.

[More information can be found here.](#) *(NOTE: Evanston Township High School District 202 is providing this WiFi list and Comcast information as a resource. The inclusion of this information does not imply endorsement by ETHS District 202. Specific questions regarding any services provided should be directed to the appropriate business).*

Loss, Breakage, and Theft

What happens if the student loses their Chromebook or if the Chromebook is stolen?

Students must immediately report lost or stolen Chromebooks to the ChromeZone. Once a Chromebook is reported lost or stolen, the device will be locked down so that it cannot be used by anyone. The Chromebook can be unlocked if returned to ETHS.

Will the district offer insurance that can be purchased?

Yes. Optional insurance coverage will be offered through a vendor, competitively priced on behalf of ETHS families. It is recommended but not required that student families purchase insurance for their district-issued Chromebooks. Families who choose not to purchase the optional insurance will be responsible for repairs due to damage and purchasing replacement devices for lost/stolen Chromebooks. The insurance covers physical loss caused by accidental damage, liquid submersion, theft (part of an additional coverage), fire, flood, vandalism, natural disasters, and power surge due to lightning. Unfortunately, insurance coverage does not apply to batteries. **Insurance coverage is offered as one-year policies, so it needs to be renewed each year if the family wishes to continue to be covered.**

What happens if the student damages their Chromebook?

Students should bring damaged Chromebooks to the ChromeZone in the A/V Media Center for assessment. If the Chromebook is damaged due to negligence and not covered by the warranty or the optional paid insurance coverage, the student and family will be responsible for repairs or purchasing a replacement device, just as they are for lost, stolen, or damaged textbooks.

Training

Will teachers receive additional training for the 1:1 digital learning initiative?

All teachers will be offered an opportunity to attend “ChromeCamp,” a series of professional

development workshops organized by ETHS faculty and staff. There also will be opportunities to attend additional training sessions both in-district and out-of-district. ETHS has developed several online training modules and will be supporting teachers throughout the year via various methods, including in-person workshops and online learning communities.

Will students receive training after they are issued a Chromebook?

Students will receive training when they receive their Chromebooks during Freshman Orientation. There will be additional resources available online and accessible immediately upon powering on the Chromebook. Students will receive additional training during Freshman Advisory Study Halls throughout the school year.

Will there be opportunities for parents to receive training?

Parents will be given opportunities to attend information sessions at ETHS where they can ask questions and receive training on Chromebooks.

Class of 2017 Chromebook Deployment

Why did ETHS choose to distribute Chromebooks to Seniors (Class of 2017) students?

The 1:1 Implementation Committee reviewed the student distribution in classes and found that a vast majority contained a mix of juniors and seniors. This would result in a varied experience for teachers and students wishing to continue their digital progress after the first two years of the 1:1 Digital Learning Initiative. The Committee reviewed the current supply of devices on classroom carts and determined that the school could go full 1:1 by offering the existing devices to families.

Can a student upgrade their Chromebook to a newer model?

Details will be communicated regarding a “Level-Up” program where ETHS students can choose to participate in to possibly upgrade their device to the most recent ETHS model.

How was the price determined for Class of 2017 students?

The Chromebook to be distributed to Class of 2017 students will be one of two existing models, and both device types will have a market value of over \$100. The device will be offered to families for \$70, and this price will include a one-year insurance policy that will cover physical loss caused by accidental damage, liquid submersion, fire, flood, vandalism, natural disasters, and power surge due to lightning. This policy does **not** cover loss/theft, but an option to add theft coverage will be available.

What about families that qualify for school fee waivers?

Students whose families qualify for fee waivers at ETHS will be issued a Chromebook at no cost. The device remains the property of Evanston Township High School District 202 until the student graduates from ETHS, at which time the device will become the student's property

When will the Chromebooks be distributed to Class of 2017 students?

All Class of 2017 students will receive their Chromebooks during the first week of school via their English classes.

What happens with the Chromebooks if a Class of 2017 student leaves ETHS or transfers out of D202?

Assuming all fees and obligations must be paid to student accounts, the student may elect to keep the Chromebook or donate the device back to ETHS for use by students.

What happens to the Chromebook once a Class of 2017 student graduates from ETHS?

District-issued Chromebooks are the property of the students and their families upon graduation from ETHS. They will be re-configured so that they will work with any Google account. Students may also donate their device back to ETHS for use by students as loaners or repair devices.

Can a Class of 2017 student bring his/her own device to use in class?

No. All students will be issued a Chromebook that is configured to the ETHS network, and all devices must comply with the ETHS Acceptable Use Policy. The use of multiple devices that operate differently and with an endless combination of configurations would make it quite challenging for teachers to plan and implement lessons. In addition, the district-issued Chromebook will be configured to allow for over-the-air installation of apps, extensions, and bookmarks, as well as software that allows for teachers to monitor usage during class.

Can a student bring his/her own Chromebook to use in class?

No. Please see above. All devices must be configured to the ETHS network. For the Class of 2017 students, an exception may be made for students who have purchased their own Chromebook prior to the start of school and are willing to have their device managed by ETHS. This needs to be done by appointment with IIT and the device will be returned to its unmanaged state at the end of the school year.

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 were required for class in previous years, a Chromebook will be required for use in class today and in the future.