



St. Paul's

LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Dear St. Paul's School Families,

As we have been preparing for the 2020-2021 school year, we know that we must be prepared to do some things differently than we have in prior years. We are starting the year with in person learning in school. Praise God for that! However, we also know that we may have times when some students may have to be learning from home due to personal circumstances, quarantine, or illness. There also could be a time when we will have to close for a short period of time. We are preparing for all of those scenarios.

Teaching our curriculum, whether at school in a classroom, or at home in distance learning, will require a greater availability and use of technology. With that in mind, we have taken steps to strengthen our technological infrastructure here at school. We have also decided to adopt a "bring your own" Chromebook policy for Grades 5-8.

A personal student Chromebook has been added to the supply list for students in grades 5-8. We've attached a "Frequently Asked Questions" form which we hope will help you in selecting the c

Chromebook you will choose to purchase. Chromebooks are much less expensive than laptops and better for the applications we use in school.

We thank you for your cooperation in our transition to this personal Chromebook policy. If you have any questions not addressed here, please contact Mr. Robson or Pastor Wollman at the school.

Sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Wendell Robson

Pastor Wollman

Chromebook 1:1 Frequently Asked Questions

Question: My child already has a laptop/other device. Can they use that instead of purchasing a Chromebook?

Answer: While there are some features that are consistent between laptops and Chromebooks, the following differences explain why students will not be allowed to use a device other than a Chromebook.

1. Speed. Chromebooks are designed to have a start-up time of less than 6 seconds (from “off” to working) and are extremely fast due to the simple platform.
2. Battery life. Students will have very limited opportunities to charge their devices at school. The average battery life of a Chromebook is over 8 hours, as compared to 3-4 hours of a laptop. This will allow students to charge their Chromebook at home and be able to use it all day at school.
3. Distraction. Chromebooks cannot download programs, games, etc. to their hard drive. Students will only have access to online programs and to specific apps that have been given by the school. This will reduce distraction and other potential problems that could stem from students having programs or files not authorized by the school.
4. Technical support. The staff is trained in the Chromebook platform and will have experience troubleshooting Chromebooks. This support would not be possible if students have different devices.

Question: What type of Chromebook will my child need?

Answer: Chromebooks are designed to automatically update online. Because they use a completely online platform, the hardware does not become outdated like on other devices. The only requirements for the Chromebook are:

1. RAM. Minimum 2GB RAM – all Chromebooks come with this as a minimum. 4GB or greater would be recommended by is not necessary. The more RAM you have, the faster your Chromebook will perform.
2. SCREEN SIZE. No minimum requirements. Consider: does your student have any vision issues and might a larger screen work better for him/her? Does she/he get easily distracted and would a larger screen help with focus etc.?
3. MEMORY. No minimum requirements.
4. KEYBOARD. The Chromebook does need a full keyboard. While keyboards do differ on different Chromebooks, it has been that most people (especially children) can easily adapt to different keyboard styles. If Keyboard style is a concern, you may want to “test drive: the Chromebook at a store before purchasing.
5. MODEL. There are many options. We encourage you to decide what you want in a Chromebook (RAM, ports, screen size, etc.) and determine what you want to spend. Then, we encourage you to read online reviews about any Chromebook you are considering. We suggest an up to date review by CNET.com or PCWORLD.com.

6. PROTECTIVE CASE (RECOMMENDED). We highly recommend some kind of sleeve or case for your student's Chromebook. He/she will be taking it from home to school and back again every day.
7. TOUCH SCREEN (OPTION). From what we have learned from other schools using Chromebooks, touch screen is not necessary. Your student might prefer it and you are welcome to purchase the more expensive models that have that option, but it is not required.

Question: Where can I purchase a Chromebook or which one do you recommend?

Answer. The school does not have a specific Chromebook that students need to purchase. If you would like to save money, you can purchase a very simple Chromebook for around \$100. Some may like the extra features that come with a more expensive Chromebook. Many stores sell Chromebooks. You can also find that many online stores carry them as well.