TREC
TRANSFORM REACH ELEVATE CONNECT
SMITH-COTTON HIGH SCHOOL
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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What items will students be receiving?

Students will receive an 11-inch Chromebook, hard shell case (only on new Chromebooks), and one charger.

Is the participation in the 1:1 program required? If so, why?

The short answer is yes. The reasoning for our decision is a bit longer.

With the help of the Sedalia community and school board, the district created a long term plan to guide us into the future. Parents and community members were very vocal about the need for increased access to technology and integration of it into student learning. One of the goals of the plan was to create a "technology empowered" district where we developed curriculum and assessment systems to engage students and provide timely data to guide teachers in the classroom.

Over the course of the past few years we have also found that every student can benefit as they are provided resources online. We provide powerful tools to help all students when they struggle with reading and writing assignments. They can have difficult text read to them as it is highlighted on the screen, text can be quickly simplified to help a struggling reader, fonts that help dyslexic readers can be used, and students who struggle with handwriting can use "voice typing" tools to just speak to the computer for writing assignments. Even in classes that still use textbooks students can take pictures of pages with their phones, upload them to their Google Drive folder and then have the pages read to them with highlighted text. With these tools available, ALL students need to have access at all times, not just a select few. We are committed to providing students with equitable access to technology and equitable opportunities to use them.

My student is not interested in getting a Chromebook, do they have to have one?

Once a school goes to a 1:1 technology model, access to technology is no longer optional. The school and the district have been planning for some time to convert to more and more digital curriculum and books in an effort to lighten the load in student backpacks, provide more up-to-date curriculum resources and get rid of paper whenever possible. We can't accomplish those goals as long as technology is optional to students, so it is imperative that every student have and use a Chromebook.

As we adopt new curriculum in the future we will purchase fewer paper textbooks, and will look for online, interactive curriculum and will supplement it with engaging, data-driven activities that utilize technology to its fullest.

For a list of 10 reasons your child should use technology as part of their classes, take a look at this great article:
[10 Reasons Today's Students Need Technology in the Classroom](#)

If a student already has his own Chromebook is it possible to use it instead of the school issued one?

While all Chromebooks are the same physically, Sedalia School District purchases a management license for all district owned Chromebooks that allows us to ensure that each student has the best learning tool we can provide. This management tool allows us to:

- Get the Chromebook on the WiFi network we have created specifically for Chromebooks. This network gives devices the highest priority on the network, the fastest speeds and great connectivity. We do not give out the passcode for this network to prevent people from connecting phones and other devices to it and slowing this network. The only way to get to this network is to have it pushed to the Chromebook via our management tool.
- We limit logins to SSD accounts only on school issued Chromebooks. This lessens the time teachers have to spend troubleshooting issues in the classroom and maximizes learning time. It also ensures that students are always being filtered appropriately for their age group.
- The district and/or teachers can push apps and extensions via the management tool resulting in less class time taken for students to have to manually install these.
- Students must have a district owned Chromebook for state testing in the spring. We use the management tool to push the secure app needed and ensure compliance with testing regulations.

When using a district issued Chromebook it is exactly the same as every other student's. We have found that this environment eliminates theft. When everyone already has one and there is no difference, students don't steal.

When students use their own Chromebook and it breaks, it is quite possible that they might be without one for two to three weeks while it is being sent in for repair. We believe that it will quickly become impossible for a student to be without a Chromebook for two to three hours. When they are using a district issued Chromebook we can replace a broken one in five minutes and get them back into the classroom to continue learning. The SSD device insurance helps to defray the costs associated with repairing student Chromebooks so parents aren't faced with large fines when the unexpected accident occurs.

What if we don't have Internet access at home?

SSD offers Tigers Connect which provides Internet access via a mobile hotspot. These hotspots allows Sedalia School District students access to educational resources anywhere, anytime. Students attending Smith-Cotton High School who do not have Internet access at home may apply for the Tigers Connect hotspots. These applications are sent home the day the student receives his/her Chromebook and can be accessed from the district's homepage. Applicants must demonstrate a need and agree that they do not currently have Internet access at home. Hot spots are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

We are always pleasantly surprised by how creative students are at finding ways to get connected to the Internet. Students tell teachers they go to a nearby friends houses to use WiFi, go to the library or coffee shops (or McDonald's) to use their WiFi or even use phones as a hotspots in a pinch to keep working when they need to. Sometimes it is these creative solutions that work the best!

How often does the Chromebook need to be charged?

Chromebooks should be charged nightly to ensure it is fully charged for the following school day. Students are responsible for bringing a charged Chromebook to school every day. If a student does not bring his/her Chromebook to school it will be treated the same as if a student did not bring his/her textbook or homework to class.

What should I do if my battery doesn't charge or otherwise needs service?

For all Chromebook service issues, students will take Chromebooks to the Library Media Center.

What happens if a student accidentally damages their Chromebook?

If a Chromebook is accidentally damaged, the student will need to take his/her Chromebook to the Library Media Center.   If a repair is necessary, a loaner Chromebook will be signed out to the student on a first come, first served basis. We urge all students to purchase $25 yearly insurance through RevTrak on the district website or in person at the counseling office to avoid larger fines.

What if my student forgets their Chromebook at home?

If a student leaves the Chromebook at home, the student is responsible for getting the coursework completed by alternate means and will be required to checkout a Chromebook from the Library Media Center. This will be a first come first served basis. The Chromebook is similar to any instructional material necessary for daily classwork. If leaving the Chromebook at home is a frequent occurrence, the student may be subject to disciplinary action.

What happens if a Chromebook is lost or stolen or otherwise misplaced and cannot be located?

In the case of loss or theft occurring at school, the borrower must report the incident to a school resource officer, administrator or the Library Media Specialist within one day of the occurrence.
In the case of loss or theft occurring away from school, the borrower must report the incident to law enforcement officials of jurisdiction within 24 hours of the occurrence and then provide

documentation of the aforementioned law enforcement report to the school resource officer or School Administration within one day of the occurrence. Failing to report loss of theft in the manner described here will result in the missing property being categorized as lost rather than stolen and the student/parent/guardian will assume full responsibility for the loss of the device and the corresponding financial obligation for the replacement costs of the lost property.

What can my child do with technology that they can't do with traditional paper and pencil?

Technology provides support for student learning that help the student overcome many barriers that exist in a paper and pencil world.

Teachers use web-based tools to quickly find out how well students understand a new concept. In a 2-3 minute activity students can answer a few questions (or solve a problem or two), submit it to the teacher and the teacher instantly can see areas that need extra help, students that might need reteaching, or if they are clear to go to the next topic. This instant feedback replaces traditional quizzes that were given on paper, graded by the teacher at night, and then brought back a day or two later. With technology teachers can assess students continually and adjust instruction for each student to ensure they are staying up with the expectations of the class.

Students become CREATORS of knowledge content rather than just passive consumers. Students can utilize many different media and methods to complete assignments rather than always just write a paper. A student will now be able to create a video that compares and contrasts two characters in a book or play, stretching them to move beyond just the script writing. Students might write a blog and ask for comments from their classmates or older students might even reach out to experts in the field to help them hone their knowledge. Students who learn best visually might create an eye-catching infographic that summarizes their knowledge of a topic. A history buff could create a Google map that pinpoints geographic locations as they study a topic (i.e., Civil War battle sites with pictures and battle information that pops up on the map, or an interactive map of the Underground Railroad). As we help students make this move from consumers to creators, they become a part of the world, capable of actively participating in communities to solve problems positively.

We live in a connected world. Businesses fully expect that their workers can work well in teams and it is becoming more and more commonplace to see those teams composed of workers from many different locations. Our students will leave school with a deep understanding of using technology to work collaboratively in a team to accomplish a task or complete a project. They'll be well versed in appropriate communication and productivity tools that amplify the abilities of each team member.

Technology also allows students to travel virtually to places unimaginable before. Students can use Google Streetview to explore foreign cities and walk through the most famous museums in the world, examining art works and historical artifacts with microscopic vision. Teachers have begun hosting Google Hangouts with guest speakers and authors from anywhere in the world, allowing students to interact with them as if they were all in the same room. Students can use

Google maps to explore the surface of the moon or Mars, or dive in the Great Barrier Reef anytime or any day. Technology offers possibilities that were previously so expensive or dangerous that we would never have considered them. As it becomes commonplace in classrooms, we can only imagine where our students will be virtually traveling!

How does technology help us keep learning relevant and up-to-date?

Scholars generally agree that the "half-life" of knowledge in the world is about 18 months, and sometimes can be measured in weeks in some disciplines. This means that every 18 months approximately half the knowledge in any given discipline is no longer true or relevant. The only way to keep up with this explosion of knowledge is to help our students understand how to:

● Perform great searches on the Internet that bring them quickly to their goal
● Dig under the cover of Internet sites and sources to know what is reliable information that stands up to the rigor of scholarly standards
● Ignore information and data that is clearly biased and outside the scope of accepted norms

Some easy examples of this are the flurry of debate raging around Pluto. One day it is a planet, the next a large rock, then suddenly it is a planet again! Four new elements were just added to the Periodic Table of Elements. Countries divide, merge and change names constantly. No textbook or print materials can possibly keep up with these changes, but teachers can utilize technology to keep their curricula current and relevant for students as knowledge grows at a staggering pace.

How is one student's Chromebook identified from another student's Chromebook?

All Chromebooks are cataloged and tracked through a library media cataloging system.

What steps has the district taken to protect students from inappropriate content?

The SSD uses a CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act) certified filter from Lightspeed Systems. For devices that go home, they have a plugin installed which filters all content through the same filter used in the school district.

Can students purchase their Chromebook when they graduate?

No. Upon graduation the Chromebook will become surplused district property. District stakeholders are allowed to bid on surplus property. For more information regarding surplus property, please contact the SSD 200 board office.