1:1 Chromebook Transitions

With more technology than ever before in the classroom including touch-screens, Google Chromebooks, and Apple iPads for early elementary students, the process by which teachers instruct students has changed, providing more individualization and differentiated learning opportunities.

For the 2019-2020 school year SJRCS spent approximately $280 per 7th & 8th grade student to equip them with an SJRCS-owned and managed Google Chromebook, software licensing, and a durable case. Together, these and other associated maintenance and support expenses, have historically been funded by our technology budget and grants. However, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, SJRCS will begin transitioning 5th & 6th grade students to a rent-to-own model for new Google Chromebook devices which will be procured and managed by SJRCS on behalf of each student.

- **For those beginning 5th grade** an annual technology fee of $70 will be included as a separate charge in your 2020-2021 FACTS tuition agreement. You will no longer pay the $35.00 Chromebook insurance. When paid over the next four years (i.e. 5th through 8th grade) ownership and maintenance responsibility for the Chromebook device will pass from SJRCS to the student upon 8th grade graduation. In other words, when your student graduates, they will own their Chromebook.

- **For those beginning 6th grade** an annual technology fee of $90 will be included as a separate charge in your 2020-2021 FACTS tuition agreement. You will no longer pay the $35.00 Chromebook insurance fee. When paid over the next three years (i.e. 6th through 8th grade) ownership and maintenance responsibility for the Chromebook device will pass from SJRCS to the student upon 8th grade graduation. In other words, when your student graduates, they will own their Chromebook.

- **For those beginning 7th and 8th grade** SJRCS owned and managed Google Chromebooks will continue to be provided by SJRCS as they are now, and, student families will continue to remain responsible for either each repair, or the annual insurance fee of $35.00.

FAQ

**What does 1:1 mean?**

One device per student. Each student (3rd through 8th grade) will be provided access to Google Chromebook devices from SJRCS-owned technology pools for school work. In grades 5th through 8th, a specific device will be assigned to each student and stored overnight in their homeroom for use during the school day.

**Do 5th or 6th grade students use the same Chromebook each day?**

Yes, each student will use only their assigned device, and will continuing using the same device until they graduate. Upon graduation, SJRCS will electronically wipe and physically transfer the device to the student (assuming all fees have been paid).

**What is a Chromebook?**

A Chromebook is a specific type of laptop running Google Chrome OS, a cloud-based operating system used throughout the Archdiocese and County schools. Chromebooks managed by SJRCS utilize SJRCS-provided Wi-Fi, cloud-based storage, and grade-level appropriate apps reviewed and approved by SJCRS in balance with our curriculum.
Do Chromebooks replace traditional textbooks?

Textbooks will remain important components of classroom learning, however, most of our classes integrate both print and digital mediums to offer a more comprehensive, enriched learning experience.

May students bring their own devices instead?

No. SJRCS can neither secure nor manage student-owned devices. Chromebooks used for classroom instruction will be procured and managed by SJRCS on behalf of all students and faculty.

What happens if the Chromebook is damaged?

The annual technology fee includes one-time servicing and repair for most accidental damage. Additional costs to repair any malicious damage (in the sole judgement of SJRCS) after first occurrence will be charged to the family; if a student damages another student’s device the student causing the damage is responsible.

What happens if a student leaves before their 8th grade graduation?

Student families may choose to pay off any remaining annual technology fee balance and keep the Chromebook, or abandon the device without recourse.

Since I’m paying for the Chromebook, can my student bring it home?

Not until graduation. For security purposes, all SJRCS-managed devices must remain on campus.

Do I have to pay the $35.00 Chromebook insurance fee that I have paid in the past in addition to the new technology fee?

No! The Chromebook insurance is included in the annual technology fee for all 5th & 6th graders. (See details above.)

How do I pay the technology fee?

The technology fee will be added as a separate charge to your FACTS tuition account, which will be processed with your August 1st or August 15th tuition payment. If special arrangements are required, please contact Jill Buls in the Business Office at jbul@sjrscs.org or 301-662-6722.