

Parent/Guardian 1:1 Chromebook FAQs

Why does Union Township School District believe that a 1:1 program is important?

The need for consistent and equitable access with the use of technology is a priority at UTSC. Technology skills are mentioned throughout the Indiana College and Career Readiness standards. Vital to achieving expectations established by the CCRS is for students to be literate for 21st Century workforce skills. In addition to the traditional view of literacy (reading, writing, and calculating), our students must be information, media, communication, and visually literate. Constant access allows for these important contemporary literacies to flourish in classrooms. In addition, students must also become good problem solvers and critical thinkers with the assistance of technology. Our workforce expects it.

Why Chromebooks?

Chromebooks represent a usable technology between mobile options such as iPads and laptops and they need little, if any maintenance. It is a web based device, so there is no need for downloading or installing software and/or updates. The way a Chromebook operates reduces, not eliminates, the need for technical support. Student work, with the use of various Google Applications, on the Chromebook automatically saves to cloud storage. In addition, Chromebooks are cost effective and efficient. This makes it ideal considering UTSC is a Google Apps school district affording students and families free access to Google Application programs. Also, Chromebooks stay charged for 7 to 9 hours, provided they are properly charged at home each night.

How has Union Township Middle School prepared for this initiative?

For the past few years, UTMS has structured professional development around the effective integration of technology. Teachers have received training on a variety of topics including but not limited to various Web tools, Chromebook use, Google Applications for Education, ReadWorks, and web based research. UTSC has also strengthened its infrastructure over the past few years in order to accommodate the needs of the 1:1 program. Several teachers have already been using Chromebooks with students in the classroom with the use of mobile lab units.

Who owns these Chromebooks—the students or the school? What happens if my child breaks or loses his or her Chromebook?

Chromebooks that are issued as part of the 1:1 program are the property of the Union Township School District. Each UTMS student will be issued a Chromebook by the school and they will have access to that device 24/7. Students will have to adhere to both the Chromebook and Acceptable Use policies governing the use of technology. This also includes potential damage. Each family has the option to purchase insurance for the Chromebook devices (\$89 for four years). However, the insurance will not cover student loss of a Chromebook. Through the Google Admin Console, applications and system updates will be pushed out for students via their UTMS Google Apps Accounts.

The Union Township School Corporation believes that a web based connected device will be a required resource for our students as they enroll in college and/or enter the professional arena. With this belief in mind, UTSC believes that students should learn how to effectively manage a device. Students are responsible for the Chromebook's general care and content accessed through the device.

What happens if the Chromebook my child is issued has technical issues and/or is in need of repair?

Spare Chromebooks will be placed in each classroom in case a student's Chromebook malfunctions.

If a student's Chromebook is not working, they will use the classroom spare computer until they can drop their assigned Chromebook off at the IT Department (Commons Area) and exchange it for a working one. The IT assistant will check out a different working Chromebook to the student and put in a tech request for the broken Chromebook. We are expecting the students to use the same Chromebook for four years.

All Chromebooks should be fully charged every day prior to being brought to school. Students need to leave their chargers at home.

Teachers are not expected to troubleshoot or fix Chromebooks.

Will my child be able to bring the Chromebook home?

Yes. They will be expected to bring their assigned Chromebook home every night to charge for the next day .

Will my child be able to use the Chromebook at home?

Yes, students can use the Chromebooks at home by connecting to their families wireless (if applicable).

Can my child leave the Chromebook at school?

Students must take the Chromebook home each night for charging. We do not have secure charging available for every student at school.

Does my child have to use the school Chromebook at home?

Students can use their own machines at home as long as they can access their Google Accounts. They are encouraged to use their Chromebooks.

How will my child connect to the Internet with the Chromebook at home?

Students will need to access the Internet by connecting to the wireless at home..

What happens if we do not have Internet service at home?

District Wi-Fi access is available to students after school at designated times. Students can also use community access points, such as public libraries and local businesses.

Are there any low-cost Internet plans for our homes?

Yes, high speed Internet access can be purchased for families qualifying for free/reduced lunch through Comcast for \$9.95 per month. Please visit <http://www.InternetEssentials.com> to learn more.

Will there be filtering on the Chromebook while my child is at home?

No. Access at school will have a filtering system. At home, students will access the Internet by connecting to their home wireless system. Specific filtering software will not be placed on the individual machines. Students can always use a family owned computer while at home and use the filtering software and settings they choose.

Can my child use a personal account to log into the school Chromebook when at home?

No, each student must use their school account to login. The Chromebook settings are locked and cannot be altered.

Who is responsible for updating the device (software and applications)?

The Chromebook Operating System, Chrome OS, updates itself automatically. Students do not need to manually update their Chromebooks. Chromebooks use the principle of “defense in depth” to provide multiple layers of protection against viruses and malware, including data encryption and verified boot. By logging in with their school email account Chromebooks seamlessly integrate with the Google Apps for Education suite. This suite includes word processing (Docs), spreadsheets (Sheets), presentation (Slides),

search (Search), web page (Sites), along with other features such as Drive, Mail, and Calendar.

Will UTMS supply my child with any Chromebook accessories, such as a protective case?

The school will provide protective cases for all students along with a charger. Never remove the protective case! You may purchase on your own a USB mouse and/or keyboard (the Chromebook does have a built in keyboard).

In what ways will Chromebooks be used in the classroom?

It will be up to each member of the UTMS faculty to determine how to incorporate Chromebooks into his/her curriculum. All teachers will participate in an initial Chromebook orientation session and will receive ongoing training. Each instructor has discretion over the ways in which they will implement Chromebooks. The idea is to have a “Blended Learning Environment” which includes traditional books along with the Chromebook technology

What training and/or support will my child receive?

During the roll-out, students will receive training on appropriate use and technical capabilities of their Chromebook. In particular, there will be training on how to access their Google Apps suite

As a parent, what kinds of limits should I set on my child’s “screen time”? How does the Chromebook affect my rules at home?

We hope that our 1:1 Chromebook program will help students learn and maintain good digital habits that will last a lifetime. Any rules that you have about computer use or Internet access should apply equally to your child’s Chromebook use. However, please keep in mind that more class content will be digitized accessed via the Chromebook. This may require students to extend their screen time to meet course requirements.

Will there be Internet filters on the Chromebooks? How will these works when my child has to do research for projects or assignments on the Internet at home?

The Chromebook initiative is a joint partnership between the school, students, and their parents. The devices will be subject to the same Acceptable Use Policy restrictions and discipline procedures applied to all other technology infractions. The school wifi will filter inappropriate content at school. At home, we encourage parents to work together with their children to monitor the access to inappropriate content and to provide their own filtering process if needed.

Is the information on a Chromebook or in Google Apps for Education private - meaning will Google sell or share our information?

The information in Google Apps for Education is private and secure and is not used or sold in any way

<http://www.google.com/enterprise/apps/education/benefits.html>

(Continued Below)

Additional FAQ For Students

Where can I find the Acceptable Use Agreement and Chromebook Policy for middle school students?

The Acceptable Use Agreement and the Chromebook Use Policy are in the Student Agenda/Handbook along with posted on the website at www.union.k12.in.us

Do I have to take the Chromebook home every night?

Yes, you will need to charge the Chromebook every night at your home and then bring it back to school every day. Leave your charger at home, do not bring it to school.

Can I take my Chromebook to extra curricular events?

Never leave your Chromebook unattended unless it is in a secured location. We discourage you to take your Chromebook to other locations other than school and home. You are financially responsible for the Chromebook.

Can I take my Chromebook to the Cafeteria during lunch?

No, students are not to bring Chromebooks to the cafeteria. Under the "General Precautions" section of the Chromebook policy it states that no food or drink is allowed next to your Chromebook. If you need to use the Chromebook during lunch, you can get a pass to use it in the media center.

Do I have to use the Chromebook at home?

You are encouraged to use your Chromebook for school assignments. Students can use the Chromebooks at home by connecting to their families wireless. You can use your home devices as well.

Can I add anything to my Chromebook?

No, the settings on the Chromebook won't allow students to add anything of their own to it.

Can I decorate my Chromebook?

No, it is always fun to decorate and make something your own, but the district will continue to service the machines and we must keep them all standard looking.

How will I be able to tell me Chromebook from others if I can't decorate it?

Each Chromebook will have an identification number on the back. The number will be inventoried to your name. A sticker with your name will be placed on the front plastic cover to assist with identification. Do not write on the sticker and do not attach any other identifiers to the Chromebook.

Can I log in with a different Google Account on my Chromebook?

No, the settings on the Chromebook won't allow you to log on with any account other than your school Google account.

What happens if my Chromebook stops working in school?

First, you can borrow a spare computer from the classroom you are in. You will take your Chromebook to the IT Department (Commons Area) and turn it into the IT personnel during service hours. You will be given a replacement Chromebook at that time. The Chromebook needing service will not be redistributed back. A service charge will be assessed to your guardians unless it is covered under a purchased Protection Plan. Service hours for student IT support will be before school, during lunch, and after school until 3pm.

What happens if my Chromebook stops working at home?

You can use any machine at home. When you arrive at school, take your Chromebook to the IT Department and turn it into the IT personal. IT Department will restore the Chromebook to factory settings or replace it out with a working Chromebook.