

# Hantsport School Chromebook Initiative



## Some Common Questions and Answers

At Hantsport School we believe that it is very important to provide the opportunity to include technology to enhance instruction, assessment, and student engagement.

The integration of technology is not something that can be dictated and there is no magic formula. Students and staff simply need access to digital tools that add to existing class-room tools used to support productivity, assessment, communication, and classroom management. It will look different in every classroom and with every student, but that is the idea. Students need an environment where productive and ethical use of technology can be modelled and incorporated within the curriculum.

As with a growing number of schools around the world, in our school board it is possible to provide students with a device that is more personal to them and available in both home and school. All Hantsport Middle School students will be issued a Chromebook that they can use during the school year as a way to develop 21st Century skills and support their education.

Students have already had an information session with Mr. Ryan Hainstock regarding what it means to be a good 'Digital Citizen' in preparation for the roll-out of the student Chromebooks.

### **How does a Chromebook work?**

A Chromebook is a small laptop that runs on Google Chrome, the same Internet browser that you may have installed on your own computer. All students and staff in Nova Scotia will be using Google Apps for Education GAfE, which means their files and tools (apps and software) are hosted in an account. The Chrome-book is just a way to access that account, so very little is stored on the actual device.

### **Why is this going to help?**

Research shows that when technology is integrated with good teaching practice, that students are more engaged and achievement levels increase. Having a device where students can customize their learning tools and not have to worry about access provides more opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of the curriculum. In addition, Nova Scotia has Information Communication Technology outcomes that all students are expected to cover from grades P-12—including digital citizenship, communication, productivity, problem solving, and operations.

### **How do you manage a large number of Chromebooks?**

The devices and GAfE accounts are managed by the school board. We can remotely set permissions and restrictions, install apps/software, and troubleshoot. As these are educational

tools, they fall under school policies, AVRSB policies in the use of technology, and the Student Code of Conduct. In terms of management, these devices are no different than the computers sitting in our schools.

### **What is the expectation for the use of the Chromebook?**

Students are expected to have their Chromebooks at school and available as needed. Students are permitted to take the Chrome-books home, understanding that the devices are still a school computer—even outside the school walls. For a full list of expectations and responsibilities, please refer to the Chromebook Policies and Procedures document.

### **Are we responsible if it breaks or is stolen?**

Under regular and reasonable use, students are not responsible for theft or damage. However, the school will determine on a case-by-case basis whether restrictions need to be imposed.

### **I'm worried about the amount of screen time and social use?**

We all are. We live in a digital society and the use of technology is something that needs to be modelled both at home and in school. These tools are encouraged to be used in situations when it enhances teacher instruction and assessment. There will be many times that the Chromebook is not the best option and students will be asked to put them away. Under digital citizenship outcomes, students will see the use of technology through an ethical and critical lens so they can learn how to balance their digital identity into the future.