Chromebook Program Questions and Answers

1. Why did the district choose Chromebooks as the 1:1 device?

The challenge that schools have faced for many years with respect to technology is affordability, applicability to the educational environment, and keeping pace with advancements in technology.   We have a very talented teaching staff who can leverage the devices in a responsible and effective manner. Having devices with the same capabilities enables the teacher to plan effectively for using the devices, knowing all students are similarly equipped. Also, the Chromebooks are made to work seamlessly with Google Applications for Education. This makes the device very easy to use and compatible with the applications students are familiar with. The device is very affordable to districts. So the educational application, ease of use, and the cost effectiveness of the device make it the right choice right now and for the foreseeable future.

2. Does the device require a wifi connection?

The device does require a wifi/internet connection to achieve full functionality. However, the unit has functionality without internet access with Google Drive and Gmail applications using the "offline" functions. When using these tools offline, the work is saved but, as an example, email will not be sent until the device is connected again to a wifi connection. Your child will be instructed on these capabilities.

3. What kinds of safety precautions has the district taken to protect the students when using an internet capable device?

Using a Google Chromebook allows the district to set security parameters on the devices. As an example, the device will be set with some safe search features to try and filter out unwanted content. In addition, students are only allowed to send and receive email from within the district's Google domain known as "bphawks." These measures help the district protect your children from unwanted digital communications and internet searches.

4. What will happen if my child breaks the device?

Our experience at IMS has been that students respect the equipment because they like using it. However, we also know that, whether kids or adults use the technology, accidents do happen. An insurance program has been put in place to help the district support families when accidental breakage occurs. The program is affordable and will protect you and the district in the event that the device does break. Please refer to the "Technology Protection Program" information that can be found here. BPSD Chromebook Program

Mission
To lead an educational partnership with the community, maintaining an environment that challenges all students to reach their potential as lifelong learners and responsible members of society.

5. What if I can not afford the $30.00 fee to protect the Chromebook?

It is of the highest priority that the district is able to support ALL students. The district will offer the same supports that it does with regard to the Activity Fee and the Free and Reduced Lunch Program within the BPSD Chromebook Program. If your family meets these guidelines, the Chromebook Protection Program will be applied free of charge. Please refer to the information used for the Activity Fee Waiver to check for your eligibility. (Activity Fee Waiver Information). However, when the Chromebook is assigned to the student under this program, the family would still be responsible for costs associated with fixing a Chromebook for reasons not covered under the protection program.

6. What kind of training will be offered to parents and students with regard to the use of the device?

The district will convey to parents and students opportunities for training on the devices. Evening programs will be offered for parents to become informed and trained with regard to the device. Parents will also be able to receive the information through digital methods if they are unable to attend the scheduled event. Likewise, prior to school, opportunities will be given for students to come in and receive training on their devices. Additional training will be conducted with students during the school day--both formally and informally--after school begins. Training and help materials for parents, teachers, and students will be posted on our support web site as the program develops. Go to: http://www.bpsd.org/ChromebookProgram.aspx for training information.