



Dear Future Middle School Parents,

Welcome to Middle School at HTCS! In 6-7-8 grades, we run a middle school 1:1 Chromebook model. This means each student has their own Chromebook that travels with them to classes and from home to school. Middle School has run this model very successfully for the last four years. Our system was tested by digital learning, and we are proud that our infrastructure supported learning and interacting for many months and on many platforms.

What are the key reasons for implementing a 1:1 Chromebook program?

1. There is a greater need for access to technology among our students, and devices are limited
2. Increase in student engagement with technology integrated content
3. Availability of research, and document creation tools: Desmos Graphing, GoogleDocs/Presentation/Sheets, Khan Academy, online coding software, Google Classroom, KidBlog, MathSpace, Discovery Education and more
4. Daily reinforcement of keyboarding and technology literacy skills
5. Increased individual access to online additional textbooks with enhanced content
6. Transition into high school 1:1 technology focused environments

Why Chromebooks?

1. Capability of the school to control the administration rights of the device with school installed management software
2. Reasonable price-point
3. Easy integration with Google platform
4. Students are already familiar with Chromebooks
5. 3rd party resources that we currently use are supported by Google

What does this mean for you?

A Chromebook will be required of your middle school student in the 2022-2023 school year. If purchasing a Chromebook is a financial limitation, please let me know. We have many Chromebooks to lend. The base model that we use on campus is Samsung Chromebook 3 11.6" (32GB, 4GB RAM) for around \$250.00. Your child is welcome to bring any model that works for your family; the only requirement being that it is a Chromebook. If you do not own a Chromebook there are many options to purchase online and retail, both new and refurbished. We will not allow MacBooks, PCs or tablets in lieu of a Chromebook.

In order for this Chromebook to be used at Holy Trinity Catholic School, we will purchase the management license for the device, so that it can be linked to our network. The management software enables HTCS to open/lock certain Google apps, and to configure the device for our wifi. The management does not control what the student can

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access off campus, on the home wifi -- that is all set up through your household security and expectations. Please note that our oversight only extends to when the user is logged in with their @htsch account.

HTCS uses Google Enterprise for Education to manage our users and devices. Your student will receive an @htsch email address. We have email enabled only to teachers with an @htsch address. Students cannot email students or outside domains. We have disabled Google Hangouts and Google Chat. HTCS uses Go Guardian for usage monitoring, safety and security. There is a parent version of Go Guardian that we can share with you in the fall. In late August, we will request that new Chromebooks be dropped off to school, so our IT company (IT Group NW) can install these two programs.

As our students take the responsibility of technology in middle school and onto high school, we hope to offer resources to families. You can find a comparison of popular [Chromebooks here](#). Once your child finishes 8th grade, if your student is moving on to 9th grade and you no longer wish to keep the Chromebook, you can make a tax-deductible donation to our technology program.

All the best,

Ashley Sheridan

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