Vandalia-Butler City Schools Chromebook FAQ's

Q. What is a Chromebook?

A. "Chromebooks are mobile devices designed specifically for people who use web- and cloud-based services and applications. With a comfortable keyboard, display and clickable track pad, long battery life, lightweight and built-in ability to connect to Wi-Fi, the Chromebook is ideal for any-time, anywhere access to the Internet. They provide a fast, safe, secure online experience for people who live on the Internet, without the time-consuming, sometimes confusing, maintenance required by typical computers."

Q. Why Chromebooks?

A. Vandalia-Butler City School District uses GAFE (Google Apps for Education). The integration of Chromebooks with GAFE provides a seamless transition to student resources.

Chromebooks boot in a matter of seconds and resume quickly – eliminating time wasted with traditional computer startup and network connection.

Chromebooks can seamlessly access the Google Apps suite, as well as other web-based apps.

Chromebooks have a long battery life. However, we do expect that students will charge them each evening to ensure maximum performance during the school day.

Q. How are these web-based applications managed?

A. Each Chromebook we provide to students will be a "managed device". Members of Vandalia-Butler City School District's Technology Department will manage the devices. As such, the school can pre-install web-applications, as well as block specific web-applications.

Q. What devices can I connect to a Chromebook?

A. Chromebooks can connect to:
- USB storage, mice and keyboards
- SD cards
- Headsets, earsets, microphones

Q. Can the Chromebook be used anywhere at anytime?

A. Yes, as long as you have a WiFi signal to access the web. Users can also sometimes work in an "offline" mode, depending on the application.

Q. Will our Chromebook have 3G or 4G?

A. No. The district Chromebooks will not have 3G or 4G broadband.

Q. Is there antivirus built into it?

A. It is not necessary to have antivirus software on Chromebooks because there are no running programs for viruses to infect.

Q. How does having a Chromebook help my child's education?

- Integrating technology improves student enthusiasm toward learning, making students actively engaged in their classes and taking ownership in their learning.
- Brain research has proven that students are now learning differently and need new instructional methods to meet their needs.
- Our students will be taught how to be effective 21st Century Learners. This means they will be digitally literate, and use the four C's (Creativity, Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking) to be global citizens.
- Technology will allow students to be active learners.
- Students will be able to peer edit easily and more constructively, as well as globally. The focus on writing will become less of an 'exercise' and become more of a crucial method for sharing information or telling stories. The technology allows students to share their writing with vast and different audiences if they choose.
- Chromebooks **will not** replace teachers. Teachers will be focused on using multiple perspectives, evidences and source materials in the electronic curriculum to increase students' critical skills.