USV Chromebook Initiative
Question & Answers

Q.   What is a Chromebook:
A.   The Chromebook is a new computer from Google for getting stuff done in and out of the classroom. It's simple and secure, and has access to the web and apps built-in so students and teachers can work and learn right out of the box. Chromebooks come with leading Google products built-in, like Search, Gmail, and Docs, so students and teachers can learn, create, and collaborate right away. Administrators can also remotely setup different user groups and access and personalize with specific educational apps from the Chrome Web store. Create and share documents with Google Apps for Education, explore another city or country on Google Maps, or watch a video on trigonometry on YouTube and more, with built-in apps. Load websites in a snap with the built-in Chrome browser, the world's most popular web browser. With Chrome Instant, web pages frequently visited begin loading as soon as you start typing their URLs. Chromebooks sync seamlessly with other devices running Chrome - like an Android phone, tablet, etc. so students and teachers can access their files, bookmarks, apps, and other settings everywhere. The Chrome Web Store offers thousands of free and paid educational apps, tools, and extensions to help students and teachers make the most of their Chromebook.
Information taken from: **http://www.google.com/edu/**

Q.   What is the purpose of the use of Chromebooks?
A.   Easier. Faster. More Secure. Chrome devices are instantly personalized by each student or teacher, and easy to manage, making them an ideal solution for bringing the power of the web to your classrooms. In addition, learning doesn't stop when the school day ends, so why limit access to applications, collaboration tools and homework resources after school? Here's how Chrome devices are helping K-12 schools of all sizes make the grade:

● Access to the web with computers that are simple to use and easy to distribute

● Share devices among students, with no manual set-up for different users

● Enjoy constant connectivity through integrated Wi-Fi

● Administer machines throughout the school, no matter how many Chrome devices you have, or where they're being used

● Students to access the web, their applications and files wherever they are, with light weight, long battery life and fast start-up

● Teachers and students to collaborate on homework and learning after the last bell

● Administrators to assign and manage one machine for each student every school-year, with no manual maintenance, security patching or time-consuming support
Information taken from: **http://www.google.com/edu/**

Q.   How will students be protected from offensive materials?
A.   Chromebooks are designed from the ground up with security in mind, so you'll be safe from viruses and malware. You don't need to buy and install security software separately. While in the school building, USV block certain Internet sites that the school has determined should not be accessible from being seen.

Q.   What happens if you do not have Internet at home?
A.   Students will be instructed how they can download materials during the school day that they will need for homework that evening. In addition, Google Drive (word processing program) allows students to view Google documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and drawings, shuffle folders around, and edit files stored in your Google Drive folders. Additionally, there are various areas around the community with WiFi access. Students may also access Google Drive using smartphone data plans, and/or using smartphone hotspots to connect Chromebooks to the internet. The key is communication with teachers!

Q.   What is the battery life of the computer?
A.   If fully charged each day, the 8.5 hour battery life should be sufficient for the school day and more. Students will be asked to charge their chromebook at home every night. If the battery no longer holds a charge, bring it to our tech department for a diagnosis.

Q.   Who is responsible for the repair fees or replacement?
A.   USV will be self-insuring the chromebooks. The responsibility for the cost of purposeful damage, negligence, loss, or theft may fall on the student/parent/guardian.

Q.   Can my child opt out of having a Chromebook?
 A.   No. Chromebooks are expected to become an integral part of the education all students receive at USV, and we want them to take advantage of the powerful learning resources available we provide.

Q.   Can students use a device they have from home instead of the Chromebook?
A.   The chromebook will become an integral part of the educational process, and all students must have one to participate in classroom activities that require it. It will be a tool that students will be expected to use and incorporate into their daily learning activities. Students **cannot** use their own laptops in school because of the extensive work that would be required to block sites that should not be accessed both in school or at home and prevent viruses from getting into USV's network. The chromebooks the students receive will be ready to use and configured with everything needed. In addition, USV staff have been trained to work with these particular devices. It would become very costly to have to deal with issues on a variety of different computers and platforms.

Q.   Will the students keep the device over summer break?
A.   No, the chromebooks and snap on covers are property of USV and must be returned for inventory and maintenance at the end of each school year.

Q.   Will the student's receive a different device each year?
A.   No, the student will receive the same device they had from the year prior. It is critical that each student takes care their device and becomes responsible to keep their device in good working condition.

Q.   May parents purchase the chromebook?
A.   Yes, after their senior year is completed at a discounted price.

Q.   What is the discount price?
A.   The discounted price will be set to include depreciation and the cost that has already been paid annually.

Q.   Will the students be required to take the chromebook home each night?
A.   The chromebooks are a tool for students! As technology is a core component of how people learn and access information today, and since USV students will have homework as a basic part of their learning, it is recommended that students take them home every night and return to school each day with a fully-charged battery.

Q.   Will students/parents be allowed to install any apps or software?
A.   No. Only USV Staff should install apps/software on these chromebooks.

Q.   Are teachers required to use the chromebooks in their class curriculum?
A.   USV is providing professional development (PD) each year for teachers and building administrators so more can be learned about how to incorporate technologies into classroom instruction and assessment. Our teachers are tasked with the job of finding the most effective way to teach our students and our hopes are that chromebooks will help make this task a little easier.

Q.   What procedures or precautions will be taken to assure the safety of chromebooks?
A.   Each student will be issued a hard shell from iPearl and should on the device at ALL times. If the chromebook is not with the student, it should be stored in his/her locker and not left in a public area. USV is not responsible of lost or stolen devices.

Q.   What if another student damages my student's device?
A.   In such cases, circumstances will be investigated on a case-by-case basis by school administration and the technology department. If the action is deemed intentional or an act of vandalism, local law enforcement may become involved.

Q.   How can students submit work or assignments via their devices?
A.   Google Drive has features built into it that allow work to be "shared" between teachers and even classmates. Students can create documents, spreadsheets, drawings, photos, presentations and even videos. Each item can be "shared" with a teacher prior to its due date. The teacher can then see the work on his or her own computer to review it or grade it for the student.

Q.   Will paper assignments become obsolete?
A.   At this point in time we will still have paper assignment. However, as this 1:1 initiative continues we hope to lower our paper usage.

May students personalize the computer?

Students may not personalize the school issued device or case. They may purchase a different mCover from iPearl, and customize it. The original snap on cover must then be returned to the technology department. Personalization must be school appropriate! Any inappropriate "stuff"

placed on a student's device will result in a replacement charge of $18 and disciplinary measures.