

Guthrie Center Community School District

FAQ's for Grades 7-12

How much do I have to pay for my laptop?

There is no fee for the laptop. However, we reserve the right to charge for intentional or malicious damage or theft.

Is participation mandatory? Does my student have to have a computer?

Yes. The laptop is a required tool for learning during the school day and teachers will be utilizing the technology during the school year. We want all students to have the same equipment and the same opportunity to succeed in the classroom. If families do not wish to allow their child to take the laptop home, the student will need to leave his/ her laptop in the office at the end of the day and pick it up each morning before class.

Where does the money come from for the laptops?

The Guthrie Center School purchased all components of the 1:1 project. The cost of the laptops will be financed through our PPEL/SILO budgets, which are made up of local tax levy and the state-wide sales tax funds.

Why did the school choose Apple laptops?

Apple has a long-standing tradition of partnering with public education and designing programs that are targeted for the classroom. They provide relevant staff training and hardware support. The MacBook Pro is designed to spend time traveling in a case wherever you need to take it. The design eliminates parts that can snag or break off and the case is durable.

If my student is a senior, can he purchase the laptop at the end of the year?

No. The computers are owned by the school and will be reused each year.

What if my laptop is stolen?

A police report must be filed by the student and their family within 24 hours of the theft.

How will the school keep students safe on the Internet?

We will ensure that Internet access is filtered at school and at home. It is the parent's responsibility to help ensure safety at home. We have given parents and students information regarding safety on the Internet (at roll out) and hope they will follow our suggestions. Apple Remote Desktop will also be used to monitor (watch) the students' computer activity at any time they are on the local network and gives the school the ability to take appropriate action when necessary. This can include blocking websites, relaying messages to students, shutting down the laptop, etc.

Do we have to have Internet access at home?

No. Students will be able to complete homework assignments at home and turn in their work when they return to school the next day. There is Internet access available at various public locations.

If we already have an Internet provider at home, will my student be able to use our service with the school's laptop?

Yes. Your student will be able to switch from the school's Internet access to your Internet provider. If software provided by your Internet provider needs to be installed, we will assist with that. You do not need wireless at home—you can connect the laptop to your DSL modem with an Ethernet cable. The laptop will not work with a dial-up connection.

Who will monitor my student's Internet access at home?

Parents will need to be involved with their student's use of the Internet and monitor the use of the Internet at home.

Can my student arrive early or stay late at school to do research, etc.?

The high school building is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. each school day. Students may have access at other times if they make arrangements with a staff member for supervision.

What happens if the laptop stops working?

AppleCare is the name of Apple's Protection Plan and our lease includes this service for the entire 4 years. Most often laptops will have to be mailed in to AppleCare and should be returned to us in working condition or replaced within a week or two. Loaner laptops will be available for students while theirs is being

repaired, and they will be able to access their files and documents from the flash drive to use with the loaner laptop.

If my student's laptop breaks, who will determine if the problem is a manufacturing defect or if it is negligence on the part of the student?

The AppleCare will determine if it is a covered loss. Intentional damage or malicious mischief will result in 100% of the replacement or repair being paid by the student. Some current replacement costs could be: Bag and strap (\$25), AC cord (\$97), Broken screen (\$463), Labor (\$82.50), Top case w/keyboard (\$121.43).

What happens if someone else intentionally damages my student's laptop?

This would be vandalism. If it happens at school and can be proven, a police report will be filed. The student who vandalized the computer would pay the full cost to replace or repair the damage. If it happened at school, disciplinary action will be taken. If the student who vandalizes the computer refuses or fails to pay restitution for the damage, the case will be turned over to the County Attorney. If it happens outside of school it needs to be reported to the school and/or police as soon as possible.

What if we suspect and/or notice abuse or misuse?

Abuse should be physically obvious; misuse will have to be verified with inspection of the laptop or Apple Remote Desktop. Don't hesitate to contact the tech coordinator about these issues. We will not hesitate to take away student laptops to hopefully deter future misuse. The length of severity of the punishment will be dependent on the situation. The Appropriate Use Policy's (AUP) will be followed and repetitive offenses dealt with accordingly.

Can we swap power cords?

No. Every power cord is labeled with the ID number of the laptop to whom it belongs. Students need to be responsible for their own equipment. At the end of the year, students will be responsible for returning the same laptop and power cord with original label attached that was checked out to them.

Can the students carry their MacBook in their own case or backpack?

No. Students must carry their MacBook in the school-issued case only. This is the only way we can ensure adequate protection... especially to the display (screen), the most fragile part of the laptop.

Can the students change the outward appearance of their laptop?

Only the provided identification label should be on the outside of the computer. No other items of any kind can be added to the laptop.

Can the students use their laptop during breakfast or lunch?

No. Laptops are not allowed in the cafeteria during mealtimes. Food & drinks should always be kept away from your laptop.

How will the school know what the students do on the MacBooks?

Apple Remote Desktop can be used to watch, block, send messages, etc., at any time the students are on the local network. Students will randomly be monitored throughout the school day. Refer to the Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Laptop Acceptable Use Policy. The policies and procedures outlined in those documents will be enforced.

Where does a student go for minor technical support?

Elementary---Brent Meier or Amber Wetzel

Junior High---Seth Poldberg or Rick Johnston

High School---Alyssa Jones or Lori McGivney

Where does a student go for major technical support?

Randy Ruth or Ken Rasmussen

What if the student forgets their laptop at home?

As a responsible student, they must bring all the necessary tools with them to school each day. This is not an excuse to not participate in class. Loaner computers can be provided. The student cannot borrow a laptop from another student. Multiple infractions of forgetting the laptop at home will result in disciplinary action.

How does the student deal with the power limitations of a laptop?

Students should charge their laptop every night at home and always bring it to school fully charged. A fully charged battery should get at least 6 hours of use during the school day. Students will carry their power cords with them in their cases and, if needed, could plug into outlets and power strips to charge in any class.

Supervised places, such as the library, could possibly be used as charging stations over lunch, etc., if needed.

Can the student listen to music if finished with all work?

This is a decision left up to the individual teacher. Headphones must be used at all times. Students must provide their own headphones. Profanity, explicit lyrics, and/or any derogatory language on the school-issued computer are against School Policy and could be cause for disciplinary action.

How will the students back up their laptops?

Laptops will automatically sync with a flash drive periodically throughout the day to ensure that the Documents folder and their Desktop always have a copy on the flash drive. Music, Movies, and Photos will NOT be backed, so it is up to you to back-up with CDs, DVDs, flashdrives, etc.

What should the student do with their laptop...

...in between classes? Put the laptop to sleep and carry it in the school-issued case.

...during lunch? Put the laptop to sleep, put it inside the protective case, and **lock** it in their locker.

...during PE, sports practice, etc? Store laptops in the cases, **locked** in student lockers. (Laptops are not allowed in locker rooms.)

...on the bus to activities? Laptops are to be left in their carrying cases while on the bus.

Can the students take their MacBooks out of town on school/personal trips?

Being able to learn while traveling or outside of the school building is a prime goal. Remember that along with this privilege is a great responsibility. Students must responsibly protect and take care of their laptop even when a teacher is not present.

Can everyone in my family use my laptop?

Yes. The laptop is being provided to further education and opportunities. Therefore, use by other family members is allowable for these purposes, but students are ultimately responsible for their laptops, just like any school-issued item.

Can students use their own personal MacBook (or any laptop) at school instead of the school- issued one?

No. While at school, everyone will need to use the school-issued computer. This will have the settings, access to the server, and programs needed by the student while at school. This policy also helps protect the school's servers and networks from viruses and other network issues. The student's personal computer may be used at home, of course.

Will the student use traditional textbooks?

Many classes will still use traditional textbooks. The laptop computer is an instructional tool to allow the student to have greater access to learning resources.

Will the students have an email account?

At this time, we are planning to issue your student an email account.

Who is responsible for making sure that our 1:1 program is a success and that the goals and initiatives are the focus of the laptop usage?

We must all keep in mind that the laptop is not a recreational toy. From 8:20 in the morning until 3:40 in the afternoon, the laptop is to be used exclusively to enhance and complement learning and achievement. We are all in this together. It is up to each and every one of us to help the students succeed with this great instructional tool and learning opportunity that they have been given.

Students are responsible for their laptop at all times!