



WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

E. W. Thurston Middle School

Aim High ♦ Work Hard ♦ Do the Right Thing ♦ Help Someone Else

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Principal

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Dear 7th and 8th Grade Students and Families:

I am writing to remind you of some exciting news. The 1:1 Chromebook program successfully piloted last year with 8th grade students is continuing this year and expanding to include our 7th graders. Each member of the class of 2021 and 2022 will be issued a Chromebook: a device to support learning both in and out of school.

The 1:1 program at Westwood High School, now entering its fourth year, proved tremendously successful in helping teachers create a personalized, flexible, and project-oriented learning environment. With Chromebooks in hand, students find themselves spontaneously researching interesting ideas or questions, partnering in meaningful ways with their classmates, making better use of teacher feedback, and managing the organizational demands of a rigorous class schedule. By providing middle school students with this opportunity, our aim is twofold: 1) to promote a rich, student-centered learning environment and 2) to help students develop good habits that will follow them into high school and beyond.

Brand new devices will be provided free of charge, but families are responsible for damage, loss or theft. For that reason, we strongly encourage all families to enroll in the optional insurance program. More information about the insurance option is included in an enclosed document.

How do students actually get their Chromebooks? What are the rules and expectations for using them? What responsibility do parents have in monitoring their use? Along with this letter, you should review three important documents that outline students' and parents' roles in the 1:1 program. Please read these documents closely and discuss them as a family.

- **Chromebook Care and Use Policy Guide (posted online at: <https://goo.gl/yAFQ0m>)**
- **Chromebook Optional Insurance Program (enclosed)**
- **Chromebook Loan Agreement (enclosed)**

Important information about picking up Chromebooks:

1. Parents must attend a very brief (30 minute) orientation session before your child receives his/her Chromebook. We have found that parents play a significant role in ensuring that devices are well cared for and used appropriately. At these sessions, we will share tips for managing Chromebook care at home, answer questions you have about the program, and review the rules and guidelines we will be emphasizing with the students. These sessions will be held:

Thursday, August 25 (during the Thurston Summer Open House)

Thurston Cafeteria Annex

4:45, 5:45 or 6:45 PM

Tuesday, September 6

Thurston Cafeteria Annex

9:30 AM or 6:30 PM

2. Parents should turn in the student **Chromebook Loan Agreement**, signed by both the student and parent/guardian during the orientation session.

3. Students whose parents have completed steps 1 and 2 above will receive their chromebooks during the second week of school after completing an in-school orientation.

Parents/Guardians choosing to purchase optional accidental damage and theft insurance coverage are asked to register online. See the enclosed **Chromebook Optional Insurance Program** document for more information.

This is an tremendous opportunity for our students. I am pleased at the success of our pilot and grateful that the Westwood community is supporting further expansion of the 1:1 Chromebook program. I am confident that our students will benefit from the learning opportunities these devices offer and that they will develop good habits this year that will support their learning in the future.

If you have any questions about the information contained in this letter or the attached agreements, please contact Director of Technology, Learning, and Innovation, Steve Ouellette at souellette@westwood.k12.ma.us.

Best Wishes,



Allison F. Borchers
Principal