Glencoe-Silver Lake Public Schools
Independent School District #2859
Proudly serving the communities of Biscay, Brownton, Glencoe, New Auburn, Plato, and Silver Lake

Jeff Jenson, Director of IT ~ 320-864-2407 ~ JJenson@gsl.k12.mn.us

January 01, 2017

Re: Change – Freshmen "expected" to bring their own laptops

Dear Parents,

The world has shifted once again. As your student enters 9th grade next year, they will be exposed to a variety of new learning opportunities. Teachers at Glencoe-Silver Lake High School have been working to incorporate the 21st-century skills of collaboration, communication, critical thinking, problem solving, creativity and innovation into their curriculum. We at Glencoe-Silver Lake Public Schools feel that equal access to technology is an important factor in preparing our students for their future endeavors. We may not be able to envision the types of jobs that will be available to our students as new technologies emerge, but we can identify the skills that are needed and integrate them into classes to help our students be successful.

We want our students to be a part of a safe and welcoming environment where they will be well equipped to pursue future career paths with confidence. Technology plays a key role in this. It is our goal to provide a safe place to teach students about the benefits of technology and how to be responsible and ethical learners in the digital age. Teachers will help students practice appropriate and professional behavior while actively participating in authentic learning experiences. These experiences will help prepare them for the inevitable use of technology they will encounter regardless of the path they choose in life.

For the 2017-18 school year, students in 9th grade will be asked to have a Chromebook or similar electronic device for use in the classroom.

In brief, we are recommending three choices in regards to laptops for High School students:

1. <u>Parents may supply a laptop</u>. There are minimum requirements for these machines, which are delineated below.
    a. Operating system
        i. Windows 7, or Higher (with current anti-virus installed)
    b. Hardware
        i. An Intel Core 2 or equivalent AMD/Celeron Processor and at least one gig Ram

2. <u>Parents may choose to purchase a laptop.</u> The District has selected four options in regards to this choice. Minimum required, Middle of the road, and higher end options. If you have questions, by all means, send those questions to Mr. Jenson, Director of Technology, Glencoe-Silver Lake Public Schools. JJenson@gsl.k12.mn.us

District Office ~ 1621 E 16th St. Glencoe, MN 55336 ~ 320-864-2499 Fax 320-864-6320
Glencoe-Silver Lake High School (Grades 9-12) ~ 1825 E 16th St. Glencoe, MN 55336 ~ 320-864-2400 Fax 320-864-6475
Lincoln Junior High (Grades 7-8) ~ 1621 E 16th St. Glencoe, MN 55336 ~ 320-864-2455 Fax 320-864-2475
Lakeside Elementary (Grades 3-6) ~ 229 Lake Ave. Silver Lake, MN 55381 ~ 320-864-2500 Fax 320-327-3122
Helen Baker Elementary (Grades K-2) ~ 405 E 16th St. Glencoe, MN 55336 ~ 320-864-2666 Fax 320-864-2682

a. **HP Chromebook** 11G5 – 11.6" – Celeron N3060 – 4 GB RAM – 16 GB SSD
   i. Chrome OS
   ii. $187.00
b. **HP Chromebook** 11G5 – 11.6" – Celeron N3060 – 4 GB RAM – 32 GB SSD
   i. Chrome OS
   ii. $232.41
c. **HP Stream Pro** 11G3 – 11.6" – Celeron N3060 – 4 GB RAM – 64 GB SSD
   i. Windows 10 Pro 64-bit
   ii. $299.00
d. **HP 250 G5 –** 15.6" – Core i3 5005U – 4 GB RAM – 500 GB HDD
   i. Windows 10 Pro 64-bit
   ii. $405.97

3. The district will supply a device for students who do not have one.

Just to be clear, the school district is not requiring high school students to bring or purchase their own computer. The district will still supply a device when necessary. A district-supplied device may not be new, cannot be taken home, and can only be accessed during class time or ECL. The device being used will be a shared device accessed by other students throughout the day.

As I stated at the start of this letter, the world has shifted once again. A laptop has become as fundamental to education as pencils, notebooks, and textbooks used to be. The year is just around the corner. We have created a web page with all the information you will need. Please use this link for all things BYOD. Information will be frequently updated.

http://tinyurl.com/isd2859-BYOD

We believe it is in the student's best interest to personally own that fundamental tool for learning. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please reach out to either myself, Jeff Jenson, JJenson@gsl.k12.mn.us, (320) 864-2407 or Paul Sparby, PSparby@gsl.k12.mn.us, (320) 864-2401.

Sincerely,

Jeff Jenson
Director of Information and Technology