

**Pelham Public Schools**  
**Technology Department**  
**Chromebook FAQ**

**What is the Chromebook/Google Apps for Education Initiative?**

The Chromebook/Google Apps for Education is a strategic initiative to educate all students one student at a time. The driving purpose of this program is to increase student engagement, further involve students in active learning, and provide students with 21st Century skills such as communication, critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration, along with content expertise. The Chromebook/Google Apps for Education Initiative focuses on academic achievement, student engagement, and the customized learning that is important for success in today's world.

**Which students will be getting what devices?**

During the 2014/2015 academic school year, all 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students will be provided with a District owned Chromebook and case. Moving forward, it is anticipated that all incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders will receive a Chromebook.

**How will the checkout/check in process work?**

Students and parents must read, sign, and return the Chromebook Acceptable Use Policy and the Chromebook Insurance Policy (or opt-out). These forms should be brought to the specific grade level "Chromebook Celebration" where the device will be assigned to your child(ren).

Please visit [http://pmhs.pelhamschools.org/group\\_profile\\_view.aspx?id=4de2e92f-d277-4946-b64a-6154bda7ece1](http://pmhs.pelhamschools.org/group_profile_view.aspx?id=4de2e92f-d277-4946-b64a-6154bda7ece1) for updated information.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chromebook Celebration: 9/29/14 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm in Cafeteria C of Pelham Memorial High School

9<sup>th</sup> Grade Chromebook Celebration: 10/14/14 6:00 pm-8:00 pm in Cafeteria C of Pelham Memorial High School

**Why is Pelham Union Free School District doing this?**

Students today live in a technology and media-driven environment, evidenced by access to an abundance of information. The ability to navigate the complex life and work environments in a globally competitive information age requires students to possess a range of critical thinking skills along with technology skills to prepare for success in college and careers. Students will move from primarily consumers of information to evaluators and producers in order to promote curiosity and innovation.

**Have/Are comparable school districts implementing programs similar to this?**

Yes, many districts have/are implementing various versions of a Google Apps for Education/Chromebook platform. Included in this list are: Clarkstown, Nanuet, Ramapo, Ossining, Carmel, Irvington, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, Yorktown, Scarsdale, Tuckahoe, Edgemont, Peekskill, Portchester, Hawthorne, and Valhalla

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**Will my student be bringing this device home?**

Students in Grades 9 – 12 will be able to bring their Chromebook home. They will be protected when navigating the World-Wide-Web as the District's web filters have been configured on each device. Students will configure their home wifi on the device and their web traffic will be routed back to the District's web filters.

**Does this technology mean the end of textbooks?**

At this time there is still a need for textbooks. As the District prepares for curriculum studies, it will be looking at digital resources to determine if they meet the content standards and are economically feasible to purchase.

**Does this mean students won't learn how to write with a pencil or pen anymore?**

Students will be using a pencil and pen because those devices are still needed.

**I have a student who will be bringing a Chromebook home, but we don't have internet access at our house. What is my child supposed to do?**

Students will continue to have access to school libraries and other areas of the school before and after the school day, as they do now. There are also numerous wireless "Hot Spots" in the local area. MacDonald's, public libraries, and other vendors often offer free wifi. Furthermore, students will be able to view Google documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and drawings even when you don't have an Internet connection. You're also able to edit Google documents, presentations, and drawings offline.

Optimum HotSpot Map: <https://www.optimum.net/internet/hotspots/>

Verizon HotSpot Support:

<http://www.verizon.com/support/residential/internet/fiosinternet/networking/setup/wifi/124660.htm>

**What is my student's obligation with this technology?**

The student's Chromebook is an important learning tool and is for educational purposes only. In order to take your Chromebook home each day, Grade 9 - 12 students are required to accept terms found in the Chromebook Acceptable Use Policy and The District Acceptable Use Policy for Computer Based Resources. These documents can be found at

[http://pmhs.pelhamschools.org/group\\_profile\\_view.aspx?id=4de2e92f-d277-4946-b64a-6154bda7ece1](http://pmhs.pelhamschools.org/group_profile_view.aspx?id=4de2e92f-d277-4946-b64a-6154bda7ece1) under the Student Chromebook Resources folder

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**How much do I have to pay for this?**

The Chromebook is being loaned to each student 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade student. The Chromebook, like a textbook, is District property and students are responsible for the care and condition of the device and must return the Chromebook and case when informed to do so.

**What if my student breaks his/her device? Do I have to pay for a new one?**

This equipment is, and at all times remains, the property of the Pelham Union Free School (District) and is loaned to the Student/Borrower for educational purposes only for the academic school year. During the 2014/2015 academic school year the full cost of the Chromebook is \$283.00. By signing the Student/Parent Chromebook Acceptable Use policy, the Student/Borrower acknowledges and agrees that his/her use of the District Property is a privilege and agrees and acknowledges it is his/her responsibility to protect and safeguard the District Property and to return the Chromebook in good condition and repair upon request by District. The District is offering a Computer Damage/Loss Program to provide protection against damage and/or loss of the loaned computer and equipment in your care. Participation in this program is VOLUNTARY.

**What if the device fails through no fault of my child's?**

The Chromebook's will be under warranty the first year for those devices where functionality is an issue because of faulty parts. The District will be prepared and able to replace devices as needed with spares, should a Chromebook need to be repaired.

**How is this initiative going to change curriculum and the school day?**

The District will study research-based digital content and resources for curriculum across all grade levels and content areas to ensure teacher understanding and alignment of instruction to Common Core Standards and/or State Standards according to the curriculum revision cycle. Teachers will strive to ensure students experience methodologies via digital delivery of content and instruction to develop digital literacy skills to be globally competitive by developing and sharing lesson plans and ideas and digital projects to utilize online learning to transform instruction.

**Where is all the money coming from to pay for these devices?**

The Pelham Education Foundation graciously provided funds for the purchase of one grade level while Senator Jeffery Klein provided a grant for an additional grade level. In addition to the purchase of devices, the Pelham Education Foundation, knowing the importance of professional development, provided \$30,000 for training of teachers. This funding will be in place to help

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teachers integrate the Google Apps for Education platform and become Google Certified Educators.

**What happens if my student forgets to charge his/her Chromebook overnight? Can he/she not participate in class?**

Without a charged Chromebook, students may miss out on technology-related instructional activities that day. Perhaps, students may be able to charge their Chromebooks for short durations during the school day.

**What kinds of things will students be doing with these devices?**

Students will be creating documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and projects. They will be able to do so collaboratively because documents can be shared among the users. Students will be completing assignments online and then uploading them again online to their teachers. Because of the constant internet connection, students will be able to collaborate not only with immediate classmates, but with content and other learners around the world.

**What kinds of internet safety protocols/restrictions will be in place?**

The same internet safety protocols and restrictions will be in place that are currently in place in the District. All Internet request are routed through the District's content filtering software regardless of where a District provided Chromebook connects to the Internet. The devices will also be monitored remotely by District Technology Support Staff.

**Will the content restrictions still be in place on a WiFi network outside of school? How is this possible?**

The same content restrictions will still be in place on a WiFi network outside of school. With the Chromebook management console, the same restrictions can be set for each individual device.

**How long will these devices last before we need to buy new Chromebooks?**

The life expectancy for each device is four years before devices will need to be replaced.

**What happens to the Chromebook if my student changes schools between years or during an academic year?**

The student will turn in their Chromebook when/if they leave the school (just as they do their textbooks now).

**Why are teachers not getting Chromebooks?**

Teachers will be able to access the web (i.e. Chrome and Google Apps for Education, etc.) on their desktop computers or laptop computers just as their students will do using Chromebook's.