

Chromebook 1:1 Frequently Asked Questions

Question: My child already has a laptop/other device. Can they use that instead of purchasing a Chromebook?

Answer: While there are some features that are consistent between laptops and Chromebooks, the following differences explain why students will not be allowed to use a device other than a Chromebook.

1. **Speed.** Chromebooks are designed to have a start-up time of less than 6 seconds (from 'off' to working) and are extremely fast due to the simple platform.
2. **Battery Life.** Students will have very limited opportunities to charge their devices at school. The average battery life of a Chromebook is over 8 hours, as compared to 3-4 hours of a laptop. This will allow students to charge their Chromebooks at home and be able to use them all day at school.
3. **Distraction.** Chromebooks cannot download programs, games, etc. to their hard drive. Students will only have access to online programs and to specific apps that have been given by the school. This will reduce distraction and other potential problems that could stem from students having programs or files not authorized by the school.
4. **Technical Support.** The staff will be trained in the Chromebook platform and will have experience troubleshooting Chromebooks. This support would not be possible if students have different devices.
5. **Management software.** PCS will be able to manage the Chromebooks (including access to the wireless network) and specific apps through a management program. This program is designed for Chromebooks and students would not have access to these parts of the program with a different device.

Question: What type of Chromebook will my child need?

Answer: Chromebooks are designed to automatically update online. Because they use a completely online platform, the hardware does not become outdated like on other devices. The only requirements for the Chromebook are:

1. RAM
Minimum 2gb RAM - all Chromebooks come with this as a minimum. The more RAM you have, the faster your Chromebook will perform.
2. SCREEN SIZE
No minimum requirements. Consider: does your student have any vision issues and might a larger screen work better for him?, does he get easily distracted and would a larger screen help him to focus?, etc.
3. MEMORY
No minimum requirements. The more memory the Chromebook has, the more your student will be able to store on the Chromebook. This shouldn't be an issue with schoolwork as most of it will be stored in the cloud. If your student will want photos, music, etc. on his device, you will need more memory. Another consideration would be if the device has an SD slot that allows your student to transfer photos (if this is something that is important to him) - although it could always be done using a USB drive or in the cloud (using another computer to upload).
4. WARRANTY
No requirements. This is a personal preference. Some people feel better about purchasing an additional warranty (or some kind of warranty if the device does not automatically come with one - such as with some refurbished models).
5. KEYBOARD
The Chromebook does need a full keyboard. While keyboards do differ on the different Chromebooks, it has been found that most people (especially children) can easily adapt to different keyboard styles. If keyboard style is a concern, you may want to "test drive" the Chromebook at a store before purchasing.
6. MODEL
There are many options. We encourage you to decide what you want in a Chromebook (RAM, Memory, Ports, Screen size, etc.) and determine what you want to spend, and that will narrow down your options. Then we

encourage you to read online reviews about any Chromebook you are considering. We suggest using CNET.com or PCWORLD.com. When reading reviews, be sure to check the date they were written in case an upgraded model of the Chromebook you are considering has been released.

7. PROTECTIVE CASE (RECOMMENDED)

We highly recommend some kind of sleeve or case for your student's Chromebook. He will be taking it from home to school and back every day.

8. TOUCH SCREEN (OPTION)

From what we have learned from other schools using Chromebooks, touch screen is *not* necessary. Your student may prefer it and they are welcome to purchase the more expensive models that have that option, but it is not required.

If you choose to purchase a used Chromebook or borrow one from someone, make sure it meets these qualifications. Also, PCS will need to reset the Chromebook to the factory settings in order to give students access to the school created accounts. Please keep this in mind if your child plans on borrowing one.

Question: Where can I purchase a Chromebook or which one do you recommend?

The school does not have a specific Chromebook that students need to purchase. If you would like to save money you can purchase a very simple Chromebook but some families may like the extra features that come with the more expensive Chromebooks. There are many online stores that sell Chromebooks. Walmart currently has Chromebooks available from \$137-\$299. The majority of these are online, but some are available in store as well. Staples also has Chromebooks available from \$199 to \$450 online as well as in store.

Question: What if we cannot afford even the cheaper options at this time?

Answer: PCS believes it will be best for students to own their own Chromebooks. We recommend looking to available resources such as grandparents, other relatives, summer employment for the students, etc. to help fund their Chromebook. However, the school will have a few Chromebooks available on a lease option. Your monthly bill will receive an extra \$10/month charge to lease a Chromebook for the year. The students will be able to take it home and use it in class as needed. A loss/damage agreement will be required. Please contact Mrs. Tani Sapp (TaniS@PullmanChristianSchool.org) as soon as possible so we can be sure to have enough available for lease.

Question: Will we see a reduction in curriculum fees?

Answer: Yes, but we are unsure as to the exact amount this time. The e-texts will have a certain license fee and there are other materials covered that will not change such as lab supplies, PE equipment, art supplies, etc.

Question: Can my child opt not to use Chromebooks?

Answer: No. Student textbooks, assignments, etc. will all be located on the Chromebook platform, making the Chromebook an integral component of our academic program.

Question: Will my child need wireless access to complete homework?

Answer: Yes and no. They will need wireless to submit assignments and to access different materials online. However, the Chromebook does have limited offline capabilities that will be sufficient for some assignments. There are also many free wireless hotspots in the area. The PCS cafeteria will be available until 5:30 on weekdays for students to study and work on homework. There are also other free hotspots such as libraries and coffee shops in Pullman and Moscow.