2019-2020 TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

What will be included in the 2019-2020 TCA Technology Initiative?

- Each 6-12 grade student will be provided with a Chromebook and training, and existing Chromecarts will be moved to elementary, enabling teachers more access to Chromebooks.
- Aging room technologies, like smartboard projectors, are being replaced with interactive smart panels.
- We will expand STEM initiatives like STEM AG, robotics, and lab supplies.
- We will be able to begin an upgrade process for many of our teacher's computers.
- We will enhance Network and infrastructure to support the connected devices.

What are some of the benefits of going 1:1 now?

- Equal opportunity for all students to expand the classroom beyond our campus
- Enhance student engagement in the classroom
- To better prepare our students to engage and operate knowledgeably and respectfully in a technology-driven world
- To help equip our teachers with a consistent and easy to manage learning environment
- Increase online textbook offerings for upper school students through the cloud-based Chromebook

How will students use their Chromebook?

- Research
- Collaboration
- Note-taking
- Multi-media projects
- e-Textbooks
- Communication (email & Google Classroom)
- Productivity apps (Google G-Suite)
- Quizzes
- Practicing objectives and skills
- And much more...

Will Chromebooks replace textbooks?

- As new textbooks become digitally available, more will be accessible to our students on their Chromebook.
- All courses with digital textbooks will also have a class set of physical textbooks for use and reference as needed.

Why did TCA choose Chromebooks for 1:1?

- We are a Google School.
- They have been a successful and proven device in our environment for several years.
- They are cost-effective to manage and maintain.
- They are robust, reliable, and durable.

Will students be able to take Chromebooks home?

- Yes, during the school year students will be able to take Chromebooks home to work on assignments. The Chromebooks will be returned to TCA at the end of the school year for maintenance and conditioning. Chromebooks will be re-issued to students at the beginning of the school year.

How will students be protected from online threats and inappropriate content?
- TCA will utilize specialized software to monitor, protect, and manage each Chromebook, even when they are outside of the school's network.
- TCA already has firewalls in place to provide students with safe access to the internet at school. In addition, we continually train students regarding appropriate use for their devices and the internet.
- TCA encourages parents to have conversations with their student at home regarding the appropriate use of technology – when it should be used, for what purposes, and expectations for use. We also suggest parents regularly monitor their students' online activity and maintain access to their accounts as a precaution.
- While no protective measure is 100% effective, we believe that a combination of state-of-the-art monitoring software, student digital citizenship training, and parent involvement can better ensure a safe online experience for each student.

Will students have to update software on their Chromebook?
- No, all updates and support will be provided by TCA IT staff.

Can students still use their personal devices at school?
- Yes, but with limitations. Cell phones, tablets, and smartwatches will not be allowed for classroom work. Personal laptops can be used with the exception of online testing or quizzes. With personal laptops, students will be required to use their school email accounts and the latest version of Chrome. TCA IT staff will not be able to offer support for personally owned devices.

What if a device is damaged or lost?
- Each device will be covered for damages for the life of the device up to replacing the damaged device one time. A damaged device that is replaced more than once or a lost device will require a minor deductible to replace. We will have replacement cost details available by May 1, 2019.

What if a student forgets to bring their Chromebook to school?
- There will be consequences if a student does not bring their Chromebook to class, much like there would be a consequence if they were to not bring their textbook or anything to write with. One of our goals is to ensure students develop the responsibility to come prepared to learn each day, and one key aspect will be for them to bring a fully-charged Chromebook to school on a daily basis. It will be up to the teacher to decide if a loaner device is needed for a crucial assignment or activity.

What if we do not have internet access at home?
- Students have access to the internet any time they are on campus. Also, public libraries, most restaurants, many coffee shops, and many other locations offer free internet access. Additionally projects can be accessed offline through Google applications and will update automatically when the student regains access to WiFi.

Can students recharge their Chromebook at school?
- Students will be expected to charge their Chromebooks at home each night, similar to charging their cell phones. Some charging stations will be available in the library to assist when they forget but there will be a limited quantity.

Will graduates get to keep their device?
- Yes, all TCA graduates will get to keep their Chromebook after graduation.