

Dear Parents and Guardians,

September 15, 2021

For the past several years WCA has been incorporating Chromebooks into our classrooms in the Middle and High School. This has been very beneficial and productive for our students. Each student has signed a user agreement which is accessible on the school website. These students will have access to a chromebook during school and be able to take it home.

We would also like to begin a Chromebook Rollout Program for our 5th and 6th grade students. The Chromebooks will primarily be used for typing, reading parent and teacher approved ebooks, and accessing information through safe websites. This will be an in-school use only for students in 5th and 6th grade. **For these students, Chromebook should remain at school during off-school hours.**

### **Why Chromebooks?**

A Chromebook is a mobile device/laptop that is web based. It is a web based device so there is no need for downloading or installing software and/or updates. The Chromebook needs little, if any maintenance. The way a Chromebook operates reduces the need for technical support. Student work on the Chromebook automatically saves to the cloud, and in particular the Google cloud. It is cost-effective and starts up quickly. The minimum battery life is 6.5 hours and since we have Google accounts, the Chromebook allows access at any time. A Chromebook has many safety features which parents may put in place in order to offer protection for their child.

### **Who owns these Chromebooks?**

Chromebooks that are issued to individual students are the property of Websterville Christian Academy. Students will have to adhere to WCA policies governing the use of technology. (Policies are included in the user agreement) This also includes potential damage. Students are responsible for the Chromebook's general care and content accessed through the device.

### **Who is responsible for updating the device (software and applications)?**

The Chromebook operating system, Chrome OS, updates itself automatically. Students do not need to manually update their Chromebooks. Chromebooks use the principle of "defense in depth" to provide multiple layers of protection against viruses and malware, including data encryption and verified boot. By logging in with their school email account Chromebooks seamlessly integrate with the Google Apps for Education suite of productivity and collaboration tools. This suite includes Google Docs (word processing), Spreadsheets, Presentations, Drawings, and Forms.

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**As a parent, what kinds of limits should I set on my child's screen time"?**

We hope that our Chromebook program will help students learn and maintain good digital habits that will last a lifetime. Any rules that you have about computer use or internet access should apply equally to your child's Chromebook use.

**Will there be Internet filters on the Chromebooks?**

Students can only access the Chromebook with their student account. A Chromebook through the student account does not allow access to apps or extensions from the Chrome Web Store. It does not allow Incognito mode, or settings to be changed unless they have the password. Internet content filtering will be utilized on the router level at the school. We recommend making sure you have internet content filtering set up on your home routers as well.

*It is our goal to partner with each parent and guardian for a holistic, safe, and solid education!  
Sincerely, WCA Administration*

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**Websterville Christian Academy**

317 Vine Street, Barre, VT 05641 - Phone: (802) 622-0298

**wcavt.org**