

ONE TO ONE IN EICS

Sharing technology from home to school.

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IN EICS

#EICS121

Starting September 2016, Elk Island Catholic Schools will be opening the door to students in grades 4 to 12 and giving them the opportunity to bring their own device to school as another tool for learning.

WHAT IS ONE-TO-ONE?

One to one means that students bring their own devices to school for educational purposes. In the classroom, students will use devices responsibly, and only with the permission and direction of the teacher or other staff member. Of course, technology alone will not improve learning— when combined with the right instruction from skilled staff, amazing things can happen. The increased use of technology in board classrooms will “power up” student success today, and for the future.

HOW WILL THIS HELP MY CHILD'S LEARNING?

At Elk Island Catholic Schools, we want to inspire success, confidence and hope in each student. As leaders in the use of technology, we encourage creative and innovative learning.

Today's students are already technology leaders. They want to take the technology they use in their daily lives and make it a normal part of their classroom experience. Research tells us that if we reflect this in their learning experiences, we will increase engagement which leads to improved student success.

WILL THE SCHOOLS HAVE DEVICES ON HAND FOR STUDENTS?

We know that not all parents can or want to send their child/teen to school with a device. That's why teachers continue to plan assuming that not every student will bring a personally owned device to school. Technology will not be used every day for every lesson. There is a right time and place.

Devices and other technology are available for students to use at school, and all students will have greater access to technology in their classrooms.

Even four or five devices in a classroom can make a difference. Used collaboratively, technology can transform learning.

WHY IS ONE-TO-ONE SO EFFECTIVE FOR STUDENTS?

- Students are usually experts with the device they have, and customize it to their learning needs.
- Students can use it to learn anytime, anywhere.
- Students can collaborate with their peers after school, about their school work.
- Student-owned devices are typically more up-to-date than those schools provide.
- School-owned devices are expensive and can be hard to sustain.

WHICH DEVICE SHOULD I CHOOSE?

We recommend the Chromebook as the ideal device due to price, battery life, fast startup and usability. Students are welcome to use laptops, iOS and Android tablets and smartphones all accessing our WiFi.

WHAT ARE THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR A DEVICE?

A device brought for learning should meet the following requirements:

- Internet ready (preferably with the Chrome browser)
- Ability to type
- Battery life of a full school day (6 hours)
- Easily labelled for identification

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WHAT KIND OF APPS SHOULD BE ON OUR DEVICE? ?

Google Apps For Education (GAPE) are the suggested apps that EICS suggests for the one-to-one device. This means that it has the following

Google apps:

Google Drive

Gmail

Google Docs

Google Slides

Google Sheets

Google Classroom

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU RECOMMEND THE DEVICE TO HAVE?

Yes. It is recommended that the device have a minimum screen size of 7 inches as well as a physical keyboard for ease of use.

WE WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS INITIATIVE BUT CURRENTLY DO NOT HAVE A DEVICE FOR MY CHILD AND DO NOT WISH TO PURCHASE ONE. WHAT OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR US?

EICS has a device leasing program in place for those who would like to utilize this option. For a yearly fee, students will receive a Chromebook to use for the school year.

This is considered a personal device and therefore management of the device is the student's responsibility.

AS A PARENT, AM I REQUIRED TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL SOFTWARE FOR THEIR DEVICE?

Virus protection for PC's is recommended . As well, device location software is not required but is always a good idea. These include: Find my iPhone for Mac; Where's My Droid? on Android devices.

WHERE CAN STUDENTS USE THEIR DEVICE?

Students will be allowed to use their device in the classroom and throughout the school to support their learning and at the discretion of the teacher.

WHAT IF MY CHILD'S DEVICE IS STOLEN OR DAMAGED?

Students bringing their own device to school due so at their own risk, just like any other personal item. The school will not be held responsible if an electronic device or other item is lost, stolen or misplaced.

We suggest that you label the device in some way as to identify it if needed. As well, some devices have a device locator and it is recommended that you enable this feature if possible.

Questions? Contact your local school and also check our Learning Technologies page at www.eics.ab.ca.