

Netbook FAQs

1. What software will be available on a student netbook?

- 1) Open Office (similar to Microsoft Office but free)
- 2) Internet Explorer
- 3) AVG Anti-virus

2. Will it be possible to open a file created in Open Office on another home computer?

Open Office is capable of saving files in various formats, including those of Microsoft Office. The chance of finding a file format in Open Office that is compatible with the software on your home computer is very good.

3. What resources will be available on a student netbook?

- 1) Basic productivity software (Open Office)
- 2) Internet access via a wireless connection.
- 3) Some online text books (Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II, Biology).
- 4) Assignments for some classes

4. What if my child forgets to charge his/her netbook at night?

An uncharged netbook is similar to a student not doing homework or not bringing required materials to class. Teachers view this as a student responsibility. If a student occasionally forgets to charge his/her netbook, allowances will be made. For example, a student might be able to use a power outlet in the classroom. If a student regularly comes to school with his/her netbook uncharged, additional steps will need to be taken.

5. What if my child's netbook is lost, stolen or damaged and I did not purchase insurance through the school?

If this occurs, the parents or guardians will be responsible for the full replacement cost of the netbook. It might be possible to recover some or all of this expense through your homeowner's insurance, but this would be the sole responsibility of the parent or guardian. Some policies include electronic devices, some policies exclude them and other policies allow electronic devices to be added for a fee. If you are considering not purchasing insurance through the school, we strongly recommend that you consult with your home owners insurance agent regarding coverage for the netbook.

6. What type of damage/loss will the insurance policy offered by the school cover?

The district expects to cover the vast majority of cases of damage or loss. In some cases it will be necessary for the parent or guardian to file a police report before seeking a netbook replacement.

7. What type of damage/loss will the insurance policy offered by the school NOT cover?

The district will not cover intentional damage to a netbook. Examples include intentionally throwing or striking the netbook, prying off or breaking keys, defacing the netbook with markers or stickers, or inserting objects into external ports (plugs).

8. What should my child do if he/she has a problem with his/her netbook?

Some problems might be relatively easy to resolve by asking a fellow student or teacher. For more serious issues, the student should fill out a form describing the problem and drop the netbook off in the media center.

9. What plans do teachers have for using the netbooks in school?

The district expects that the netbooks will become an integral part of each student's day. Currently, teachers find the access to computers in school to be inadequate. In order for students to research a topic using the Internet, type an essay, prepare a presentation, and so on, the teacher must sign up for a computer lab in advance. If a lab is not available, the teacher must develop alternate plans. When every high school student has a netbook, this will no longer be a problem. Moving forward, netbooks should improve student to teacher communication and make it easier for students to collaborate with other students on schools projects.

10. Why is it important for my daughter/son to bring her/his netbook home?

First, the netbook needs to be charged every night to be ready for the following school day. More importantly, we expect that the netbook will be an important resource to support your student's work outside of school. The netbook can be used to for online research and to create electronic documents for school.

11. How will my child access the Internet on his/her netbook when away from school?

The netbook needs access to an Internet connection outside of school. This access could be through your home access or it could be from a public access point provided by a library or other establishment.

12. Is my child expected to turn in the netbook at the end of the school year?

Yes. Each summer the netbooks will be cleaned and receive software updates to make them ready for the following school year.

13. What if my child has a problem with the netbook outside of school?

The district plans to keep the netbooks up and running but cannot afford to maintain an afterhours help line. Some problems might be able to be resolved by consulting fellow students. More serious problems will need to wait until the next school day to be addressed.

14. Will my child be able to print from the netbook at home?

With the myriad of printers that reside in the homes of the district, it is impractical to install software to make them all work. If a student needs to print a document outside of school, we recommend that the file be moved from the netbook to the computer with a printer using a USB flash drive. If the computer contains compatible software, the document can be opened and print out from that software. If the computer does not contain compatible software, the netbook will be equipped to produce a PDF file that most computers should be able to open and print.

15. What plan does the school have for replacing lost or damaged netbooks?

The district has purchased additional netbooks that will be used to replace lost or damaged netbooks. This approach has at least two advantages: 1) it will not be necessary for a replacement netbook to arrive, and 2) the district will be able to maintain a single make and model of netbook.

16. What if I don't want my child to have a netbook?

The district plans to make the use of the netbook an integral part of each student's education, similar to how text books have been integral to students' education in the past. Like a text book, as required equipment, each student will be assigned a netbook for his/her exclusive use.

17. Can my child bring and use his/her own computer instead?

There are security risks in allowing any computer to access the school network. At this point, the district has decided to only allow school computers to have full access to the network.