Gates Chili Central School District
Digital Conversion
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Q & A

The Gates Chili Central School District is continuing a transition in learning and teaching through 1:1 student laptops. This program is focused on creating a more personalized and engaging learning environment enhanced through the use of digital devices. As part of this program, students will be empowered to learn anywhere, at any time, as well as strengthening their creativity, communication, collaboration, and critical thinking skills. This initiative is about putting the world in students' hands. We want students to experience, connect, and interact with the world in ways that traditional textbooks and curriculum alone can't provide. At Gates Chili, we are committed to developing 21st century learners. The 21st century learner should be able to:

- access the best sources of information beyond the four walls of the classroom.
- work collaboratively, both in person and at a distance, and communicate ideas effectively to multiple audiences using new media.
- use real-world digital and other research tools to access, evaluate, and effectively apply information appropriate for authentic tasks.
- work independently and collaboratively to solve problems and accomplish goals.
- value and demonstrate personal responsibility, character, cultural understanding, and ethical behavior.

Gates Chili will harness the power of Schoology, Microsoft Office 365 and other digital resources to provide learning platforms from school or at home. These applications and other digital resources will foster greater collaboration and communication between our students and teachers, and allow home access to continue their learning and creating.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. **What type of device will be used?**
   Our students will use a Windows based laptop.

2.
   When will the laptops be distributed?

   Distribution of the laptops will be at the end of August and during the first few days of school. Students, along with their parent(s)/guardian(s) who have signed the Student Pledge, and whose parent(s)/ guardian(s) have signed the User Agreement, will be able to receive their devices.

3. **Will the students be permitted to take the device home at night?**
   Students in grades UPK-3 will leave their computers in school. Students in grades 4-12 will take their device home with them each night if they have completed the Protection Plan. If they did not complete the Protection Plan, they are fully responsible for any repair and/or replacement costs in the same way they would be responsible for any other damaged or lost school property.

4. **Is there a cost for the program?**
   Families will be provided with a laptop protection plan at no cost. If the User Agreement is not completed, the family will be responsible for carrying full liability in the same way they do for other damaged or lost school property.

5. **Will there be access to staff in the building who can provide technical support if there is a problem with my child's laptop?**
Yes. There will be a system set up in school for students to report technical problems. Students are encouraged to complete an IT Request to report technical problems through ClassLink or at www.gateschili.org under the Students tab. Information technology specialists will be assigned to address these issues for our students.

6. **How does my child log in to their laptop?**
The username is usually first initial of his/her first name, first initial of middle name, entire last name. For example, John Peter Smith's username would be jpsmith@gateschili.org. If students do not have a middle initial/name, students will use x.

Your child's password was chosen on the day he/she picked up the laptop. *Please have a conversation with your child reinforcing the message that he/she should never share the password with others*.

7. **How will students manage and save work?**
Students should get in the habit of starting and saving all their work in Microsoft Office 365. By starting their work in the cloud, it is automatically saved and can be accessed on and offline.

8. **How does my child log into Microsoft Office 365?**
Students will open a web browser and go to www.gateschili.org Under the Students tab, click on Microsoft Office 365. Once at the sign-in page, students will enter their email address. ex: jpsmith@students.gateschili.org. When they hit tab, they will be directed to an authentication sign-in page where they will enter their username and password that they logged into the laptop with. For more help, visit the Department and Programs tab, Technology, Microsoft Office 365.

9. **Can I see my child's classwork on the laptop?**
We encourage you to talk with your child about the technology he/she is using in class. We offer Schoology parent access to view their schoolwork. For more information, please visit gateschili.org/Schoology.

10. **Will the digital conversion replace paper and pencil?**
No. As with any tool, there is a time and a place for both. Students will still be using notebooks and pencils as well as their digital devices.

11. **What if my child forgets to bring his/her laptop to school?**
If your child fails to bring the device to school, he/she will be responsible for completing course work as though they had their device with them (think of it in the same way as a textbook). Parents can also bring the laptop to school for the student.

12. **Will my student be able to use our Internet service at home with the school's device?**
Yes. Student laptops will connect to any Wi-Fi network.

13. **How will the district handle Internet safety concerns?**
Internet safety is commonly known as digital citizenship throughout the district. The district has created a framework for teaching our students appropriate and safe use of digital tools and resources. Digital citizenship is a partnership that involves the responsibility of both the district and families to monitor and educate our students.

14. **Is the laptop being monitored for Internet safety concerns?**
Per federal regulations such as the Children Internet Protection Act (CIPA), Gates Chili is required to filter all Internet traffic assessed by students and staff. Therefore, content that the student is trying to access in and outside of school will be filtered. Each laptop is monitored with software that provides the district with real-time alerts and automated reporting for inappropriate use of the district's computer system when school is in session. The district is not responsible during break periods. Remote access may be required to troubleshoot a laptop issue.

15. **Will this initiative replace traditional textbooks?**
Many of our newer textbooks come with online versions. Novels, library books, etc. will still be utilized within the building. Our library currently provides digital options for students as well.

16. **What should my child do if his/her laptop needs to be charged during school?**
It is the student's responsibility to make sure the device is fully charged when coming to school. Students should bring their charging cord to school each day in case they need to charge their laptop.

17. **If my child forgets his/her laptop at school, can homework still be completed?**
Yes, a student can access all work from any device with Internet access.

18. **Can students personalize their laptop?**
No permanent markers or stickers should be used on the laptop. School issued stickers and barcodes should not be removed or covered.

19. **Can my child still access Microsoft Office 365 if they are on another device?**
Microsoft Office 365 is available for free to students in our district (a $300 savings to you!). Each family can download Microsoft Office on up to four other devices. Instructions on how to download can be found at gateschili.org/Page/160.