



Benjamin Rush Middle School

1 to 1 Initiative

Information and FAQ

Overview



Starting with the 2016-2017 school year, BRMS will be using “1 to 1” Technology, with a Chromebook for each student for the purpose of education. We believe it is very important for us to prepare our students for a future that is unimaginable to us. We know many of them will work in exciting careers that as of yet haven’t been invented, and we know communication across a variety of platforms will be an important skill for everyone. We hope to be able to give our students new ways to think, interact, and work in the current school environment so they have greater chances for success in the college and work environment of their futures. While it is difficult for us to imagine what the future will be like, we can only be certain that we need to prepare our children for an ever-changing world of technology and for the flexibility needed for a lot of change. We do not want our students to struggle or be uncomfortable with the challenges of new learning environments. Research also shows that student engagement and learning can be significantly enhanced with technology in the hands of every student. For these reasons, we are carefully preparing for this exciting, yet challenging, addition to our teaching and learning world.

FAQs

What will each student receive?



Each student will receive one Lenovo 11E Chromebook laptop computer, a charger, and a case. Chromebooks were specifically chosen for their use and durability for this age group.

When and how will my child receive the Chromebook?

The Chromebooks will be distributed to middle school students on the second day of the 2016-17 school year. Prior to students receiving their Chromebooks, the students will receive instruction on the care, handling, and functionality of the Chromebooks and will sign a pledge to handle their Chromebooks according to these guidelines. We will work with students to teach them about Digital Citizenship as they integrate use of the devices into their learning.

How will we secure student devices in the evenings, during sporting events, etc.?

Students should not bring their Chromebooks to evening events at the school, including sporting events, as the school will not be providing extra supervision or storage of Chromebooks. Students will not be given access to their lockers during sporting event times.

Will students have the laptops at home over the summer?

Students will not have laptops at home during summer break. This not only helps prevent loss and breakage, but it allows our school to complete necessary updates and repairs as well as checks to be sure the Chromebook is ready for the next school year.

Will kids receive a new laptop the next fall?

The plan is for students to be issued the same laptop in the fall as they had the previous school year. Each Chromebook will remain assigned to the same student.

Will my child take the Chromebook home?

Yes. We want our students to take the Chromebooks home as they will use them for in-class work as well as for homework assignments. Though not every class will use the Chromebook every day, it will be important for students to be prepared to use them on a daily basis. The Chromebook will be used when it is deemed by the teacher to be the teaching tool of choice for particular class activities and assignments. It will be important for students to get into the habit of charging their Chromebooks in the evenings at home so they are ready for class the next school day.

What if my child breaks his/her Chromebook, or loses the charger or Chromebook case?

We will be teaching digital citizenship and will focus on solid academic habits and how to use and care for their equipment before the equipment is distributed. It will be important that you help your child find a safe place for storing and charging the equipment each evening. This will take a lot of reminders for your student, but it is hoped that together we may help them form good habits to minimize loss or damage to equipment. That being said, if it gets broken, the student will be able to turn it in for repairs and will receive another Chromebook to use until the repairs are completed. If a child breaks or loses a Chromebook, parents will be responsible for the repair or replacement of the Chromebook unless the parents have purchased a service plan to cover the incident of repair or replacement of the Chromebook in advance. We strongly encourage all parents to consider purchasing this service plan to avoid the costs of repair or replacement of the Chromebook.

While on this topic, it is important that parents follow the guidelines for the purchase of school supplies. While size limits are specified in the BRMS supply list, students often want, and parents often purchase binders or “Trapper Keepers” that are much too large for our lockers. This causes students to have problems getting their lockers open and straps get closed in the door as well. It is hard on the locker hinges and takes up too much room in the locker as students try to cram the binders in and slam the door. Students who have the oversized binders will not be allowed to keep them in their lockers or have them at school. This “cram and slam” will hinder the chances of a student being able to keep their Chromebook in their locker without breakage. A reasonably-sized binder is not a problem.

Is there any coverage that I may purchase to avoid having to pay if my student’s Chromebook is lost, stolen, or broken?

Yes, parents may opt-in to a Chromebook service plan for each student Chromebook that provides full coverage for a single incident of the device in the event it is lost, stolen, damaged, or destroyed.

How do I buy the Chromebook Service Plan?

The Service Plan will be available for purchase online using Harmony and in person at the middle school.

If my student leaves Benjamin Rush Middle School, where does he/she turn in their Chromebook and accessories?

The equipment can be turned in along with textbooks and library materials to the main office. There is a check-out process prior to leaving the school upon withdrawal from BRMS. The collection of the Chromebook and accessories will become a part of that process.

What if my child already has a laptop, can he/she use that one instead?

No. All students will be using the same, school-issued Chromebook devices at school. The school does not have the ability to provide the technical support needed for the wide array of personal devices, nor does the school have the time and staff for adjusting projects, classroom settings, etc. for a wide variety of devices. Chromebooks keeps all students on equal footing in terms of use, functionality, and online protection.

What does this mean in terms of how my child will learn?

While technology is appealing and engaging for students, it will be up to the teacher to select and implement what he/she sees is the best way to learn particular concepts that are based on Indiana State Standards. Rather than expecting every teacher to use technology in every class every day, the teacher has the professional insight to determine the best sequence, activity, pre-learning, and follow-up based on the objectives of the class. The value of technology is dependent upon the quality of the lesson and its activities as chosen by the teacher. Just like textbooks, videos, periodicals, and other resources, technology is a tool to use in instruction but it is not the curriculum, nor is it the force that drives the curriculum. The planning is up to the teacher. You may expect to see a type of blended learning in many cases. High quality blended learning fosters people skills, relationships, collaboration, individual work, group work, and individual student needs.

Will all of my student’s classes be on the computer?

Some classes do not lend themselves as well to computer use as others, particularly in the area of the arts, for example. While there are virtual experiences and numerous high quality enrichment opportunities online, there are many skills our students need that require experiences not involving the computer. Not all classes will be on the computer.

If we do not have the internet at home, how can my child access it for projects, assignments, and learning opportunities?

We are aware that Internet access at home may not be available. Chromebooks have the ability to allow students to work offline, without Internet access, to complete coursework when the students have prepared themselves to work offline. Your student will be shown how to effectively work offline so that he/she can maximize the benefit of this technology. Internet will be available on school grounds where wireless signal is available, as well as local businesses and community organizations that provide free wifi hotspots.

How will my child be protected online?

BRMS uses a variety of safeguards that are built into our corporate wireless network system and Chromebooks. Undesirable sites are blocked and supervision as students work on the computer is intense. At home, the responsibility for online and offline technology supervision is the responsibility of the home, even when using school-issued equipment. Rush County Schools uses the Rocket LightSpeed filtering system on its devices.



As a parent, I am not familiar with a Chromebook. How can I learn about the Chromebook?

Families will have some opportunities to be introduced to the devices in the fall. Each student, with a guardian, will be required to attend a session that covers the school's acceptable use policy, care of devices, warranty/insurance information, etc. There will be someone available to answer your questions.

For More Information, and updates, Please Visit the Following Websites

<https://brms.rushville.k12.in.us>

(Find information about BRMS programs, news and updates)

<https://rcstech.rushville.k12.in.us>

(Information about our Rush to Digital Initiative, and Responsible Use of Technology Policy)

<https://rcs.rushville.k12.in.us>

(Find information about Rush County Schools programs, news, and updates at this Website)