



Peter Fultz
Principal
Phone: (403) 932-4457

Mitford School

110 Quigley Drive
Cochrane, Alberta T4C 1Y1



Brandon Nordoft
Assistant Principal
mitford@rockyview.ab.ca

June 18, 2024

Re: Mitford Grade 7 & 8 One-To-One Technology

Dear Families,

The integration of technology and learning is an integral part of the instructional approach and support in grade 7 & 8 at Mitford School. This means that classroom instruction will be supported with digital tools such as Moodle (online access to resources), the Google Suite (classroom, Gmail, calendar, documents, etc), PowerSchool Public Portal (students and parents can monitor the progress of student learning), myBlueprint (digital student portfolio), and any other approved resources that support programming.

It is an important reminder that all grade 7 & 8 students have a one-to-one technology device. This is accomplished using a personally owned device or by a school loaner program. **A personally owned tech device is strongly recommended in Grade 7 and 8 since the school has limited availability of Chromebooks at these grade levels to offer as loaners.**

Chromebooks are relatively inexpensive and durable, ranging from \$190 to \$300. Staples, The Source, Best Buy, and Amazon are just a few of places where Chromebooks can be purchased, and some offer a student purchase incentive program. Since cell phones are not permitted during instructional time they cannot be used as a viable alternative.

Benefits of one-to-Technology with Student Learning

- **Greater Student Engagement** -Another common concern families have from implementing 1:1 classrooms is that these devices will create a distraction for students. However, teachers share that these devices increase student engagement, keeping them more interested in the subject matter and the task at hand.
- **More Creative Learning Outlets** -No matter what subject you may be teaching, electronic devices provide your students with unique opportunities to learn. Rather than only composing "traditional" written essays in class, these devices allow students to get creative in demonstrating their learning. In fact, they can do anything from creating a video presentation to recording a Podcast and everything in between.
- **Tailored Learning Experiences** — We know not all students learn in the same manner. Some are visual learners, whereas others are better off learning through hands-on activities. When every student has access to their own device, they can learn how best for them. Based on each student's learning style, teachers can provide different versions of the same lesson. This can be especially useful for math lessons, but they come in handy across all subject matters.
- **Improved Student/Teacher Communication** — This approach means teachers can provide more timely, specific feedback to students thanks to 1:1 teaching and the tech platforms we use.

At the beginning of the school year, programming will include digital citizenship and skill development with the tools mentioned above. Teachers will work with students to ensure they can use the software to complete their schoolwork.

System Requirements

Laptops (Mac or PC) are strongly recommended as devices of choice for this initiative. Netbooks and Tablets may be considered if they meet the following criteria:

1. Have a full QWERTY keyboard for typing.
2. Be capable of playing Flash (YouTube) videos.
3. Have wireless G or N networking with WPA connectivity.
4. Headphones are a requirement.

If specialized functions are required for a specific course, such as video editing and storage, the school will have computers available for these specific purposes.

Maintenance

Maintenance, upgrades, and troubleshooting are the responsibility of the student for all personally owned devices.

How will the students be able to power/charge their units for a full day's usage?

Mitford School students will need to be proactive in charging their machines daily at home. We will be supplying power charging sources should students need them.

How will computer security and student responsibility be addressed?

1. It is the responsibility of students to maintain and keep their machine safe. Mitford School strongly recommends parents insure their student's computer through home insurance. As with all possessions brought to school, it is important for students to keep their valuables secure when they cannot directly monitor them. Additionally, there are software and apps that help track to whom the machine belongs. Permanent identification of the machine via engraving is recommended.
2. The school will support an investigation to see if a device has been stolen. Missing devices should be reported immediately to a teacher so the device can be located before a class is dismissed.

Will parents be charged extra fees?

Outside of the purchase of a laptop for their student, no additional fees will be charged for this initiative.

If you have any further questions, please contact us at the school office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Fultz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Fultz
Principal
Mitford School