

F.A.Q. for the 1 to 1 Take-Home Tablet/Laptop Deployment in the Pine Plains Schools – Derived from actual Parent / Student questions.

Device Information:

Which devices will be used? How much memory is on the device?

In the 2015-15 school year, the Middle school grades 6-7 and grade 5 at Seymour Smith will use the Dell Venue Pro 11 10.8” tablet, Model 5130, with Quad-Core Atom Processor. Full details may be found at:

http://www.dell.com/us/business/p/dell-venue-11-pro-edu/pd?refid=dell-venue-11-pro-edu&baynote_bnrnk=0&baynote_irrank=0&~ck=baynoteSearch&isredir=true

MS/High School Grades 8-12 will use the Dell Latitude 3340 laptop, with full keyboard, extended life battery, and touch screen. Full details may be found at:

http://partnerdirect.dell.com/sites/channel/Documents/Latitude_13_Education_Series_spec_sheet.pdf

Future device specifications may vary.

Which software will be on the device?

All systems will have Office 2013 Pro, Windows 8.1 accessories for browsing and content creation, camera and sound recording software, and a standard set of support applications, as well as educational software which may vary from grade to grade.

What is the battery life of the device?

Our selection goal is for the device battery to last at least through the school day – about 7 hours or more in some cases. All devices issued will meet or exceed this goal, IF they are brought to school charged, as is required. Students should get into the habit of charging their device at home on a daily basis.

What type of virus protection will be on the device?

Microsoft Defender is standard on Windows 8.1 devices. If a device is infected and turned in to IT, another device may be issued, and the first device wiped clean and restored with the current school image. It is not necessary for the user to install any other software; however, repeated infections may be viewed as a violation of the device usage policy.

Device information (cont.)

How many chargers will the students receive?

Tablet Device - One with the device, including a USB charging cable.

Laptop Device – One with the device, with integrated charging cable.

Chargers are considered part of the device, and, if lost or deliberately damaged, a replacement charge will be levied.

How many extra devices does the District have for replacements?

Based upon our discussions with similar school districts, we have reserved approximately 5% of the total device count for replacements during repair. We have arranged for next day onsite repair for most damaged devices to insure rapid turnaround.

Can my child add software or a home printer to the device?

The devices are fully functional and mostly unrestricted; thus, it is possible to install Windows 8.1 supported home printers and software. The school district cannot be responsible for home support or user installed software or hardware, and software that interferes with the programs the school has installed, or with the school network or servers, is not allowed and will be removed upon detection. If it is necessary to replace the device or restore the system software, user installed programs may be lost.

How and where will the student's documents be stored?

Our goal is to increase collaboration and safe storage of student data by offering the following options for storage:

School Servers, with Common areas and Home Directories.

MS Cloud Storage (Unlimited Storage OneDrive, available to grades 3-12)

Google Cloud Storage (Google Drive)

Data may be stored on the local device while out of school, and transferred to District storage while on-site if Internet (cloud) access is not available.

The district provides the three means above for storing data to insure that student work will not be lost, regardless of the device used to create/edit it. Work on the device may be at risk, and the district urges all users to use the “device independent storage” above to save data.

Internet Related:

Can the device be used on the Internet?

Yes, all devices running Windows 8.1 will have the capability to access available Internet resources. Wireless capability (and wired on the laptops) is built into every device, and the three most popular web browsers (Internet Explorer, Firefox, and Chrome) are preinstalled.

Can the school wireless support all these devices?

Upgrades to the wireless system in the HS/MS and Seymour Smith support the device density required. Our allocated Internet bandwidth through DCBOCES should also be sufficient for the immediate future.

Will the device work with dial up Internet access?

Because the devices we have chosen have integrated USB 3.0 ports, it MAY be possible for a user to obtain a USB modem for use with a dial-up service, or a 3G/4G USB stick for use with a cellular phone service. This is not a configuration that the District can vouch for nor support, however.

What if I do not have Internet access at home?

Because we are using full Windows OS computers with local processing capability, students will be able to access programs (such as MS Office) and documents stored locally on the device. Once re-connect, schoolwork can be stored on the District servers or OneDrive. Obviously, online resources would not be available at home in this case.

Can certain (*Internet*) sites be blocked?

While in school, Internet access is controlled by the firewalls and filtering in place through devices located at the Dutchess County BOCES. Home Internet access is determined by whatever controls the parents / guardians and Internet Service Providers have in place.

Additional assistance with device security and web safety for parents and guardians may be found on the district web site, at:

<http://www.ppcsd.org/departments.cfm?subpage=1868255>

What can prevent the students from downloading iTunes, updating facebook or browsing the web while in class?

Effective classroom management is essential at all times, and as is the case with our computer labs, it is expected that the use of the devices in the classroom will be controlled and directed by the classroom teachers and their assistants.

In School:

How will this improve the student's education, tests scores etc.?

Although every District and 1 to 1 implementation is different, most studies agree that a successful implementation will improve education in several ways, among which are:

- Increased Student engagement.
- Reductions in disciplinary actions.
- Reductions in dropout and recidivism rates.
- Increased student collaboration.
- Availability of more current and relevant resources.
- Increased access to online resources and Virtual Environments.

How or will this device save the District money in the future?

The primary intent of implementing 1 to 1 technology is to improve education, not to reduce overall costs. Nonetheless, although it remains to be seen how these devices will affect costs in Pine Plains particularly, some ways that cost savings have been realized elsewhere include:

- Paperwork reduction – Paper and copy machine expense reductions.
- Tailoring of instructional materials more effectively to student performance.
- Reduction in the cost of some educational materials and resources – substitution of low/no cost Web resources, e.g. Virtual Field Trips.
- More effective instruction leads to reductions in drop-out and re-education expenses.
- More effective use of lower cost Multi Media devices, e.g. built-in cameras and sound recorders.
- Reduced software costs due to current OS resident enhancements, such as Speech and Handwriting Recognition.

Indirect cost reductions, such as moving from paper-based to electronic testing using devices.

Will there be charging station at school?

There are currently no “charging stations” at school. The student is required to bring the device to school charged and ready for use each day. A student who fails to do so on a regular basis may be considered as unprepared for class.

I am concerned about my child losing his/her ability to read a book, handwrite, or to spell correctly.

The use of technology tools in education does not change state teaching standards or requirements, nor alter the content of the education received.

How many hours will the device be used during the day and during what classes?

Ultimately, the intent is for the device to be used often, in all classes, to varying degrees.

In School (cont.):

Do the students return the device at the end of the school year?

Yes, devices will be returned at the end of the school year for inspection and reimaging. Any devices or school issued accessories not returned at the end of the school year will be considered lost, and a replacement charge may be issued to the parent/guardian.

Will students and faculty be trained on the use of the devices?

Yes, various sessions will be held for all parties using the devices.

What happens if the device is accidentally left at home?

In this respect, students should treat their portable device like any other schoolbook or notebook, and should bring it (charged) every day to school. In the event that they forget, an alternative portable device may be made available for use in school, and there will be normal access to the libraries, computer labs, and stationary classroom computers (if available).

Rules / Regulations / Other:

Will parents and students have to sign an agreement for the student to use a device?

Yes, an agreement will have to be signed in order for a student to take the device home. In addition, a permissions form to allow access to the District computing resources has always been, and will continue to be, required.

What if I don't want my child to have a school device?

It is NOT required for a parent/guardian to accept the home use of a school device; however, in many cases the device will be integral for the delivery of instruction or the creation of assignments. In some cases the student would need to be issued a device for use in school, which would need to be turned in at the end of the school day. It should be noted that an Internet enabled home computer might be used for many assignments should the teacher avail themselves of our cloud resources, such as Office 365 and Google Apps.

In the case that take-home devices are not desired, the student's parent or guardian should contact the relevant school principal office in order to discuss their request directly.

What is the turnaround time if a device is accidentally broken?

Under normal circumstances the Student will be issued another device to use that day, and the broken device is repaired and returned to the pool of devices for handout.

Rules / Regulations / Other (cont.):

What policy is in place if a student breaks the device on purpose?

Essentially, an internal evaluation process will be used to determine whether damage is willful and malicious, or accidental. If a device is damaged maliciously, the parents / guardians may be held responsible for the repair or replacement of the affected device(s).

What is considered accidental damage? Please clarify and give examples.

Accidental damage is damage that is not willful or intentional. Examples of accidental damage might include a device falling from a person's hand and being damaged, or a port damaged while inserting a plug. Damage caused by deliberately throwing or hitting a device would not be accidental. Normal wear and tear, and failure due to bad internal components or bad software, would be considered neither willful nor intentional.

What if the device is stolen or lost?

If a student loses their device while in school, they should notify their teacher immediately, who will in turn notify administration. It may be possible to locate a logged in device while it is in the school building through our wireless system or by other methods.

Otherwise, lost or stolen devices become the responsibility of the parent or guardian, and they may be billed for replacement costs. Under such circumstances, we urge parents and guardians to file a police report, and to check their home owner's insurance policy in advance to see if they are covered for this possibility.

Who pays for extra accessories? What would the procedure be?

Optional accessories for the devices, if desired, are available for purchase independently of the District by the student or parent/guardian on a Dell site customized for Pine Plains at:

<http://www.dell.com/PinePlainsCSD>

Also on the site are access to drivers, manuals, and other support materials, as well as coupons and special pricing. Since the devices run Windows 8.1 and have standard input/output ports, a wide variety of devices from retail sources are also available.

Note that school devices may change over time, so if accessories are purchased independently, give preference to those that used standard interfaces, such as USB or Bluetooth. Equipment specific to a particular model of device may not be compatible if models change over time.