Walther Christian Academy
1:1 Chromebook Initiative

Walther Christian Academy Chromebook Overview

- **What is 1:1 and how does it change the learning in the classroom?**
    - The Walther Christian Academy 1:1 Technology Initiative means that all Walther students utilize a computing device as one of their key learning tools. At Walther, we want to enable our students to reach their potential to become well-prepared lifelong learners. Technology plays an important role in being a lifelong learner in the 21st century. Part of the skill sets needed today include the ability to use technology as a productivity and collaboration tool, not just a social networking and gaming tool. Walther students use technology appropriately and in a way that helps them think critically and collaboratively.
    - As a 1:1 school and providing each student with a device, we strive to provide our learners with the opportunity to learn in an engaging atmosphere reflective of the world that surrounds them. The goal is for students to become more active learners and producers of knowledge. Effective use of digital devices will progressively lead us to more engaging forms of classroom interactions that offer more personalization, individualization, and differentiation.
    - A 1:1 school places an emphasis on creating an adaptive, fluid, and dynamic learning environment. Walther Christian Academy wants to make sure that we have the proper tools in our students' hands to meet our learning and teaching goals.
    - The 1:1 Initiative allows us to provide, grow, and then sustain a technologically rich learning environment for our students in each of the middle school and high school grades. It is our belief that this will help all of our students reach their full potential. What will not change is that we look forward to continually providing our students with an educational experience deeply rooted in a Christ-centered atmosphere under the guidance of excellent teachers.
    - A 1:1 learning environment is able to provide enhanced learning in regards to critical thinking and engagement. Additionally, students are encouraged to own their learning. They are given the tools and resources to participate in the production of their own learning. Walther students are able to leverage digital tools to produce and enhance the in-class learning experience.

- **Why Chromebooks?**
    - Schools throughout the country are considering a variety of devices as they transition to 1:1. Some are opting for tablets, others laptops, and still others Chromebooks. Based on the needs of Walther Christian Academy and its community of students, Chromebooks were chosen because they are affordable, lightweight, fast, and simple to use.
    - There are multiple benefits cited by schools using the Google Chromebook in a 1:1 Learning Environment. These are as follows:
        - Chromebooks are optimized to use the full Google Suite of learning tools, including Classroom, Google Drive, Google Docs, etc.
        - Battery life of 7-10 hours
        - Power on in less than 10 seconds
        - Cloud based storage that protects any data if the device is lost or stolen
        - Built in security and management
        - Apps and tools can be sent directly to students
        - Continued growth in apps available for student use
        - Access to the Chromebook experience across all and any devices
        - Very resistant to technical problems including viruses
        - Affordability
        - Device provides a full size keyboard, large display, and clickable trackpad
        - Mobile device with quick access to the Internet
        - Ideal for anytime, anywhere access to the web
        - Provide a faster, safer, and more secure online experience without all the time consuming, often confusing, high level of maintenance required by typical computers

- **Technology Fee and Chromebook Lease-to-Own**
    - Walther students will pay a $350 annual technology fee which is wrapped into the tuition.

- The technology fee is built in such a way that it will enhance the 1:1 Initiative for the individual student in a variety of ways.
  - A portion of each year's technology fee goes to leasing the Chromebooks.
  - A portion is applied to the Google Chromebook Management System.
  - A portion of is applied to the student's Google Chrome OS license.
  - A portion is applied to the student's Chromebook set-up and internal maintenance.
  - A portion is applied to the student's warranty coverage and/or insurance coverage.
  - A portion is applied to the student's use of Walther's internet and network as well its upkeep.
  - A portion is applied to the student's protective case and other deemed necessary protective equipment as the Technology Administrator sees fit.
  - A portion is applied to various apps and digital textbooks deemed crucial by the academic departments of Walther Christian Academy and approved by its administration.
- The Chromebooks are high-quality, and have the following specifications:
  - 11.6 inch, touch screen
  - High processing speeds
  - Lightweight (less than 3 pounds) and durable
- A warranty plan is part of the 1:1 Initiative. It covers all manufacturing defects for the life of the device, as well as two accidental damage claims, and comes with a rapid replacement feature.
- A student who transfers out of Walther or otherwise does not graduate must return the Chromebook within 48 hours. If this does not occur, records will be held until that time when payment is received that will include the remainder of the student's leasing costs.

- **How will Chromebooks impact teaching and learning?**
  - Students will be able to use their Chromebooks for numerous class activities. They can participate in live polls, collaboratively work on projects with their peers and teachers, collect and analyze data, perform experiments in digital labs, write papers, type notes, communicate with teachers, submit assignments, etc.
  - Students will also be able to use these to stay organized. They will be able to manage their emails, calendars, task lists, documents, and folders.
  - The G Suite for Education, which consists of many apps, includes the ability to create documents, presentations, spreadsheets, use email, and store work in the cloud using Google Drive.
  - Students will also be engaged with non-Google learning resources that are appropriate to the subject matter being taught.
  - Students may use select applications which the school makes available through the Chrome WebStore.
  - Students will not have access to download their own apps.
  - Parents seeking out more information about the G Suite for Education can visit https://edu.google.com
  - Technology integration leads to learning activities which promote collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical-thinking. Based on the learning outcomes of each class and class period, teachers determine how often to use the device. We envision a blended learning environment, in which the teacher continues to play a critical role in instruction with technology assisting student learning.
  - Students use a mix of traditional and digital textbooks. Digital textbooks tend to be highly interactive, tend to be less expensive, and are updated regularly with content. Often, they are accompanied with audio, multimedia, read-aloud functionality and result in a tremendous learning advantage for students.
  - Google's expansion into education with the G Suite for Education has provided teachers and students with a variety of tools that promote and reflect the shift in both education and in the workplace. The G Suite for Education places an emphasis on tools that focus on collaboration and communication and these tools are quickly becoming foundation pieces for classroom learning.
  - The G Suite for Education core services are the heart of Google's educational offerings to schools. The core services are Gmail, Calendar, Classroom, Contacts, Drive, Docs, Forms,

Groups, Sheets, Sites, Slides, Talk/Hangouts, and Vault. The incorporation of the Google experience streamlines both the student and teacher workflow. It also provides students with the skills necessary to become capable, responsible 21st century digital citizens.
    - Walther's primary emphasis is placed on effective use of technology that stimulates critical thinking, collaborative work and student-centered learning.

- **The Importance of Digital Citizenship**
    - Walther's 1:1 Initiative requires that its students follow the six conditions of being a good digital citizen. Students should always conduct themselves as a good digital citizens by adhering to the following:
        - **Respect Yourself:** I will show respect for myself through my actions. I will select online names that are appropriate. I will consider and caution the information and images that I post online. I will consider what personal information about my life, experiences, or relationships I post. I will not be obscene.
        - **Protect Yourself:** I will ensure that the information, images, and materials I post online will not put me at risk. I will not publish my personal details, contact details, or a schedule of my activities. I will report any attacks or inappropriate behavior directed at me. I will protect passwords, accounts, and resources.
        - **Respect Others:** I will show respect to others. I will not use electronic mediums to antagonize, bully, harass, or stalk other people. I will show respect for other people in my choice of websites. I will not visit sites that are degrading, pornographic, racist, inappropriate, or otherwise outside this school's Christian mission. I will not abuse my rights of access and I will not enter other people's private spaces or areas.
        - **Protect Others:** I will protect others by reporting abuse, not forwarding inappropriate materials or communications. I will moderate unacceptable materials and conversations, and not visit sites that are degrading, pornographic, racist, inappropriate, or otherwise outside the school's Christian mission.
        - **Respect Intellectual Property:** I will request permission to use resources. I will suitably cite any and all use of websites, books, media, etc. I will acknowledge all primary sources. I will validate information. I will use and abide by the fair use rules.
        - **Protect Intellectual Property:** I will request to use the software and media others produce. I will use free and open source alternatives rather than pirating software. I will purchase, license, and register all software. I will purchase my music and media, and refrain from distributing these in a manner that violates their licenses. I will act with integrity.
    - For additional information specific to digital citizenship, please visit: https://www.commonsensemedia.org/parent-concerns.
    - In addition to this, students are required to follow all copyright laws around all media including text, images, programs, music, and video. Downloading, sharing, and posting online illegally obtained media is against Walther's policy.

- **Handling the Device**
    - Students are responsible for the general care of the Chromebook device issued by the school. Here are a few tips that will help keep the Chromebook in working order.
    - General Care
        - Never lift or move the Chromebook by holding the screen. Use two hands to pick it up by the base.
        - Refrain from carrying the Chromebook with the screen open.
        - Refrain from placing anything on top of a closed Chromebook, especially when carrying books or other things.
        - When opening the Chromebook, make sure it is stable on a flat surface such as a table or desk.
        - Check to be sure your power cords are not creating a tripping hazard for you or others.

        - When transporting the Chromebook, always keep it closed and protected inside the case. Never wedge the device inside a book bag because this may crack or break the screen or hinges.
        - Do not expose the Chromebook to extreme temperatures for an extended period of time.
    - Charging Your Device
        - Remember you must charge your device fully each night before you come to school.
        - Determine a consistent place to charge your device at home.
        - Insert all cords, cables, or other devices carefully. Be sure you use the correct ports.
        - When charging, be sure to place the Chromebook in an area that will prevent people from tripping over the power cord.
        - Be aware of switch outlets at home; turning out the lights may prevent getting a full charge.
    - Screen care
        - The Chromebook screen can be damaged if subject to rough treatment. Students should refrain from placing heavy textbooks or any item which would put pressure on the screen.
        - When closing the Chromebook, make sure there is nothing resting on the keyboard such as a pen or pencil.
        - You may clean the screen with a soft, dry anti-static or microfiber cloth. Do not use window cleaner or any type of liquid on the device.
        - Do not poke the screen with anything that will mark or scratch the service.
    - Security
        - Do not leave the device in an unsupervised area such as the school grounds, gym, bathroom, hallway, or any other entity that is not secured or supervised. When not with a student in a class, the Chromebook should be locked in the student's locker.
        - During extra-curricular events or activities, students should have these locked in hallway lockers or locker room lockers or make appropriate arrangements with their coach or staff member.

- **Spare Equipment and Lending**
    - If a student's Chromebook is inoperable, the school has a limited number of spare devices for use while the student's Chromebook is repaired or replaced. All policies and agreements that govern and dictate the use of a student's Chromebook remains in effect for loaner computers. If a student does not bring his/her Chromebook to school, the student may be required to borrow a device from the school.

- **Frequently Asked Questions**
    - **Why a 1:1 Initiative?**
        - Walther's program will provide a student-centered, collaborative, dynamic education for the 21st century.

    - **I don't want my student to have a Chromebook, can I opt out?**
        - No. These devices will be an integral part of classroom instruction, and without a device, students would be unable to participate fully in classroom activities and assignments. We require all students to bring their Chromebook to school daily.

    - **Can a student bring in his/her own laptop or device?**
        - No. We require that all students use the school-issued Chromebook in school. If students bring a multitude of devices that operate differently and do not have a common set of applications, it becomes challenging for classroom teachers to plan lessons. In addition, we will not allow non-school owned devices access to our wireless network.

    - **How long will the device last?**
        - Chromebooks have very few moving parts in them and generate very little heat. Therefore, the life expectancy----so long as they are treated appropriately----is fairly significant. Six years or more is not unrealistic. Additionally, the devices have powerful

processors, adequate memory, and automatically update the latest software and security features without anything needing to be done by the student. Finally, the warranty covers two incidences of accidental damage.

- **How will the school monitor the students' searches and activity?**
  - Students have no expectation of confidentiality or privacy with respect to any usage of a Chromebook, regardless of whether that use is for school-related or personal purposes, other than as specifically provided by law. The school may, without notice or consent, log on, supervise, access, view, monitor, and record use of student Chromebooks (including reviewing files and other materials) at any time for any reason related to the operation of the school or for any purpose that furthers the interest of the school. By using the Chromebook or school issued Google account on other devices, students and their families agree to such access, monitoring, and/or recording of their use. Violations of the policy can result in appropriate disciplinary action, including the student being suspended from using the school network and device use. It is important for the students to logout of their accounts when not being used by the student.

- **What steps will the school take to protect students from inappropriate content?**
  - Walther will do its best to ensure our students' online experiences are safe. Before each Chromebook device connects to the internet, it must pass through our firewalls and filters. This happens whether the device is browsing on campus on school owned networks, or off campus using another WiFi router that is providing the Internet connection. Because of security settings built into the device, it must first route through our security content filter settings before any website or online resource is accessible. If the student is using the Chromebook at school, at home, or at a public library, it will always pass through our web filtering and network firewall system before they can see or access web content. Our web filters are programmed to block inappropriate content as much as possible.

- **Who is responsible for updating the device?**
  - All Chromebooks are supplied with latest build of the Google Operating System. The Chrome Operating System will automatically install updates in the background and will make the latest version available when the computer is shut down and restarted.

- **Will students be able to take the device home?**
  - Yes. The device will be issued to the student at the beginning of the school year and will be returned at the end of the school year.

- **Can my student print materials from the Chromebook?**
  - Yes, but printing from the device will be limited while at school as we are trying to encourage the use of sharing documents electronically between the students and teacher.

- **Do students have to bring their device to school every day?**
  - Yes. We expect students to bring the device with them to school daily.

- **What if a student forgets to charge his/her Chromebook at home?**
  - A student is responsible for charging his/her Chromebook the night before any school day. We expect students to bring their devices to school fully charged. If one is available, students who do not bring a charged Chromebook to school may be issued a loaner device for the day. However, we have a limited number of loaners available.

- **What happens if my student forgets his/her Chromebook at home?**
  - If one is available, students who do not bring their device may be issued a loaner device for the day. However, we have a limited number of loaners available.

- **What happens if my student's Chromebook is being repaired?**

- A student whose Chromebook is being repaired will be issued a loaner. Loaners will be issued to students whose Chromebook was damaged or that is in for repair prior to students who forgot to charge their device or who forgot to bring it to school.

- **What happens if the device get a virus?**
  - It is nearly impossible for a Chromebook to be infected by an actual virus. This is one of the reasons we selected this type of equipment. Chrome OS is one of the most secure, if not the most secure, operating systems on the market. This is due mostly to the fact that Chrome OS does not allow one to install ANY programs (hard to install a virus if you cannot install anything), but is also due in large part to the operating system. Google also releases official updates to Chrome OS every six weeks (with some unofficial ones in between) that bring new features and security updates.

- **How is one student's Chromebook identified from another student's Chromebook?**
  - All the Chromebooks are the same and look very much alike. However, each will be tagged digitally on the management system physically on the actual device. Students should keep the physical tag in place and not tamper with it in any way, shape, or form. If any physical identifying label peels or becomes damaged, students should let the appropriate personnel know so that it can be replaced.

- **What training or support will our student's receive?**
  - Within the first few weeks of device deployment, students will participate in various activities to help them become acclimated with the device and G Suite for Education. Each student will receive instruction on what it means to be a Digital Citizen. Finally, Intro to Computer Science is a graduation requirement, and this course dives even more deeply into digital learning.

- **Can students personalize the Chromebook?**
  - Since the Chromebook is officially the property of Walther Christian Academy, we are asking that devices not be personalized.

- **What if a student's battery runs out during the school day?**
  - This should not be a problem as the Chromebook, when fully charged provides sufficient battery life for a school day. Students are encouraged to bring a fully charged device to school each day.

- **My child already has a Chromebook. Can he/she use her own?**
  - No. The Chromebooks leased-to-own through Walther will be configured for use on the school network. Students must obtain their Chromebooks for use at Walther from Walther. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

- **Is there anything else my student needs to go with the Chromebook?**
  - Students should have a pair of headphones and a USB flash drive as well.

- **Should I purchase a case?**
  - A case will be provided by Walther.

- **What happens if the Chromebook is damaged?**
  - If the Chromebook is damaged due to normal usage or unavoidable accidents, the school will repair or replace the damaged equipment according to the established warranty and insurance. Repair costs associated with breakage and damages deemed as willful abuse or neglect will be the responsibility of the student. This includes full device replacement. Purchasing a replacement device does not relieve responsibility for any remaining lease-to-own payments.

- **What happens if the Chromebooks is lost or stolen?**
  - Loss or theft of the device is the student's responsibility and will result in the student being charged the full replacement cost to purchase a new device. If the Chromebook is lost or stolen, we can deactivate it from our management console upon notification by the student.

- **What happens to the device at the end of each school year?**
  - At the end of each year, the Chromebooks will be collected by Walther. We will store them and redeploy at the beginning of the next school year. Special arrangements can be made for students taking summer courses whether they be online or otherwise.

- **Do you have to be connected to the internet for the Chromebook to be operational?**
  - Like any modern computing device, a Chromebook is fully functional when connected to the Internet. At the same time, Google continues to build more features into the Chrome OS, allowing the Chromebooks to work offline when no Internet access is available.