

To the Parents of

- Rising 4<sup>th</sup> Graders
- New 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders
- Existing middle school students who need to purchase a new Chromebook

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- **DO NOT** PURCHASE A CHROMEBOOK **TABLET** OR **DETACHABLE!** THEY WILL **NOT** BE PERMITTED.
  - **AVOID** PURCHASING CHROMEBOOKS WITH **TOUCHSCREENS**, AS THEY OFTEN NEED COSTLY REPAIRS.
  - **AVOID** PURCHASING CHROMEBOOKS ADVERTISED AS **2-in-1** or **FLIP**, AS THEY OFTEN NEED REPAIRS.
  - WINDOWS & iOS LAPTOPS ARE **NOT** PERMITTED.

Chromebooks have become a major educational tool for our students and teachers and their heightened use during the pandemic has caused us to reflect on how we will continue to use them going forward. Traditionally the middle school children brought their own Chromebooks and took them back and forth. In discussion with the teachers, we have decided that it would be beneficial for 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders to have their own Chromebook for home and school use.

We are asking that families of incoming 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders and families of new middle school students purchase a **Chromebook laptop** for your child to be used for the remainder of his/her school life. On the back of this letter are the minimum requirements for Chromebooks, but we are also giving you the freedom to purchase your own model and the freedom to purchase a protection plan. It is strongly suggested that you purchase a full accidental protection plan **as you will be responsible for all repairs that may be needed.**

Please note that **only Chromebook laptops** are permitted for use in school. **Windows & iOS Laptops are not permitted. Detachables and tablets powered by Chrome OS are not permitted.** If you have purchased a laptop or Chrome OS detachable or tablet for use in the upcoming year, please exchange it for a Chromebook laptop. **Your child will not be permitted to use anything other than a Chromebook laptop in school.**

Student Chromebooks must be used exclusively for school & managed by SVMS via enterprise enrollment. The **Chromebooks need to be provisioned** by the Technology Committee for use in school. **Details will be announced during the summer.**

**Please do not use the Chromebook before being provisioned for use at school as this causes many issues.**

**If you have purchased a new Chromebook for an existing 4-8th grade student, the new Chromebook must be provisioned for use in school, just as the original one had been.**

Please feel free to contact me at [nholly@svmsnj.org](mailto:nholly@svmsnj.org) or 973 377 1104 X201 if you should have any questions or concerns about this endeavor.

Sincerely,  
Sr. Noreen Holly SC

## 2024 - 2025 SVMS Chromebook Recommendations

For the 2024– 2025 school year, SVMS is making the following recommendations to parents purchasing Chromebooks for their students. It is our suggestion that you purchase a Chromebook that is advertised as rugged and specifically designed for students. Each student will be transporting the device from home to school and back every day. Broken Chromebooks will cause stress during the school year and interruptions with the availability of the device.

We encourage you to do your own research and make the best choice for your child and budget. Purchasing a case for the Chromebook will also be required.

- **Please make sure you purchase a CHROMEBOOK LAPTOP and NOT A COMPUTER LAPTOP (Windows or iOS).**
- **DO NOT purchase a DETACHABLE OR TABLET WITH CHROME OS as many models cannot support Enterprise Enrollment. These devices will NOT be permitted for use, and you will be asked to return the device and purchase one that complies with the school standards.**
- **AVOID** purchasing Chromebooks with **TOUCHSCREENS**, as they often need costly repairs.
- **AVOID** purchasing Chromebooks that are **2-in-1** or **FLIP**, as they often need costly repairs.

Here are our suggestions:

Purchase a **Chromebook laptop** that runs on a minimum of **Google Chrome OS™ 120**. This is the requirement for the online NWEA tests students take throughout the school year.

If you are buying an older model or a refurbished Chromebook, please be aware that they have a limited lifespan. A Chrome device receives regular updates from Google until it reaches its **Auto Update Expiration (AUE) date**. The AUE dates for all brands and models of Chromebooks can be found on Google's Support website. A link is provided here for your convenience: <https://bit.ly/3tyERBx>

We recommend the purchase of a protection plan. Basic protection and accident protection plans are offered by most retailers. However, if you decide not to purchase a plan, SVMS has had a positive working relationship with LaptopMD for Chromebook repairs and their contact information is as follows:

### **LaptopMD**

169 South Street

Morristown, NJ

973-434-7116

[www.jerseylaptoprepair.com](http://www.jerseylaptoprepair.com)

## Helpful Purchasing Information

**Memory (RAM)** – When it comes to RAM, most Chromebooks come with either 2GB or 4GB. We recommend at least 4GB of RAM. The difference will be worth it for if you plan to have more than a couple of tabs open.

**Screen** – Many display resolutions on most 13 inch or larger Chromebooks will be 1,920 by 1,080 pixels, otherwise known as 1080p, but a few cheaper or smaller Chromebooks may be lower resolution, and the very highest-end models may be higher-resolution. For most midsize Chromebooks with screens from 13 to 15 inches, 1080p is a suitable option.

**Processor (CPU)** – A low-end processor like an Intel Celeron or a Pentium processor will serve you well if the primary use of the Chromebook is to browse with a tab or two open. Chromebooks based on Intel Core CPUs like the Core i3 and the Core i5 will be more versatile for robust multitasking and streaming, though can be more expensive.

**Storage** – Most files on a Chromebook will be stored in the cloud/Google Drive, so Chromebooks include only a small hard drive, usually 16GB – 64GB, on which to save your local creations if needed. This should be sufficient for student needs. If you think more space on the device is needed, look for an SD card slot to add expanded storage.

**Connectivity** – Most Chromebook connections are wireless, so you will use the machine almost exclusively attached to Wi-Fi. If you will need to give presentations, look for a video output port, such as HDMI, that matches what displays you have available. Also, look for a USB port or two if you will want to attach a mouse or other peripheral.

**ChromeOS Updates** – Every Chromebook has an expiration date on which Google stops supporting the device. Choose the Chromebook with the latest end of life date with the specifications you need.

**Chromebook End of Life Considerations** – Chrome devices (e.g. Chromebook, Chromebox, Chromebase, Chromebit) receive automatic updates that enhance both the device and its software. Device updates provide the latest features and keep the device secure, and are applied across the operating system, browser and hardware. These updates depend on many device-specific non-Google hardware and software providers that work with Google to provide the highest level of security and stability support. For this reason, older Chrome devices cannot receive updates indefinitely to enable new OS and browser features. See this chart to determine when a Chromebook is expected to reach EOL:

<https://support.google.com/chrome/a/answer/6220366?hl=en>

Please note, some retailers may have misleading information on their websites about the age of a Chromebook, making buyers believe it was manufactured more recently than is actually the case.

<https://www.aboutchromebooks.com/opinion/opinion-amazon-needs-to-stop-listing-chromebooks-with-misleading-information/>