



November 5, 2018

Lakota Parents/Guardians:

Every Lakota student is part of a learning community dedicated to meeting each child's needs through evolving personalized learning experiences and opportunities. We value our rich history of pairing talented staff with quality tools and resources to support each student's learning and will continue to do so as we move forward in providing a student-centered education at Lakota.

Lakota's next chapter of personalized student learning at our high schools will begin in January with a new pilot program that will pair each of our 9th-11th grade students with a dedicated, district-owned student device (1:1) to support high quality teacher instruction. (Seniors will continue to use their personal devices or have access to a district provided device for use at school for the last few months of their high school experience.)

This "WEareEMPOWERED" program is being designed to **empower** each student to own their learning through expanded access to innovative instructional content, activities to increase collaboration and communication, along with new learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom and school day. This new initiative supports the development of key student skills and responsibilities necessary to navigate the digital transformation of today and the highly-skilled, technology driven global world of tomorrow.

We are also **empowering** each teacher with specially designed professional development to support the facilitation, guidance and personalization of student learning with proven and innovative approaches, many supported by technology, to enhance lessons, projects, problem solving and assignments.

Funding:

Lakota will be using Permanent Improvement funds already allocated for our next technology replacement cycle to fund this initiative. These funds require at least a five year return on investment. Once this program is established and matures, we anticipate moving the eighth grade devices to our K-6 schools at the end of the school year. Each freshman student will receive a device for their entire high school career. These devices will then be repurposed throughout the district at the end of their senior year. We do not anticipate a family purchase option.

No fee increase is anticipated at this time as part of this pilot program. Each device will be covered by a warranty and all repairs will be completed only by Lakota Schools. In the event a device is lost or stolen, the cost of the device will be assessed as a fine and will be collected from the parent/guardian by the district.

Device/Support/Access:

Lakota is focusing on Chromebook laptops for this pilot. Chromebooks are the number one laptop sold to US K-12 Schools. They feature a Google operating system with a large selection of education-based apps, built in virus and malware protection and will allow our students to access Lakota's instructional tools by connecting to the Internet.

All devices and applications will be provided, owned and managed by Lakota. Updates will be applied upon reboots to prevent any interruption to student work. The battery life is advertised to last through the school day and charging is quick with the provided charger. Each Chromebook will be issued with an attached protective case and writing tool. We encourage students to personalize their case, but nothing shall be placed on the laptop itself.

While some digital resources will be available through other family or personally owned devices, some will only be accessible from these Chromebooks. It is critical each student have access to these devices to ensure they can connect to their school work, their peers and their teachers to support their instructional journey.

Although some work may still be done on paper or other materials, no printing will be required at school or at home, since all assignments can be accessed, worked on and "turned in" digitally. Limited printing options will be available in the Media Center.

While this program will promote student responsibility, we do understand that accidents happen and equipment fails. Each school will have a process and point person in place to coordinate support and help ensure each student has a device to participate in all instructional activities requiring a Chromebook.

District networks are being expanded and Internet access will be filtered both at school and outside of school. Each student will access their device and their online tools with their Lakota credentials. (We always encourage password resets often to further support data security.)

Furthermore, Lakota is aware that some students do not have broadband Internet access at home. We have begun the 'WEareConnectED' business outreach program, allowing area businesses to advertise the availability of their wifi to our students by placing the program logo in their windows. Also, Spectrum is offering an assistance program for reduced cost high speed internet access for Federal Free & Reduced lunch participants. If you are interested in this program, you can contact Spectrum at 1-844-525-1574 for more information. In addition, a limited number of filtered mobile hotspots will be made available, but will require a parent agreement.

Next Steps:

To prepare for the launch of this exciting pilot program this January, 2019, **each student and their guardian(s) will be required to sign the attached** (1.) New Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety Agreement along with the (2.) New Student Issued Device Usage Agreement. The usage agreement details the expectations of the program and the care and responsible use of the device, as well as outlines the financial responsibility to the parent/guardian if a device is lost or intentionally damaged. Each device will be covered by a warranty and all repairs will be completed by Lakota.

[Please click here to access the Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety Agreement](#)

[Please click here to access the Student Issued Device Usage Agreement](#)

More information will follow in the coming months on the process and schedule for issuing and supporting your student's device, how to access online training, and other details as this pilot program moves forward.

In addition, a new page on the district website has been dedicated to providing information to our parents about this program. Please visit <https://www.lakotaonline.com/empowered> for the latest news and updates.

We are excited to partner with you on the WEareEMPOWERED program for each of our 9th-11th grade students!

Please contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

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