



Dec. 5, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are excited to update you on the WE are Empowered launch at our schools. The one-to-one technology initiative is set to begin at Lakota East and West, along with both freshman campuses, in January.

As we have communicated, students in grades 9-11 will be receiving a district-owned Chromebook to expand access to content and better support high quality teacher instruction. This WE are Empowered program is being designed to empower each high school 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.

As we explained in our earlier communication, we are able to launch this initiative at the high school earlier than we anticipated. With just a few months remaining in the school year, devices have only been purchased for students in grades 9-11. However, still having access to the devices in our buildings and being able to bring their own devices to school, seniors will continue to have access to the same educational experiences as our underclassmen.

Lakota is focusing on Chromebook laptops for this initiative. 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 are currently exploring options to expand Internet access opportunities after school hours. In addition, 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.

Students will receive their Chromebooks shortly after they return to school in January. The dates for the rollout are below.

- January 4: Lakota East and West Freshman Campuses
- January 7-8: Lakota East and West Main Campuses

**In order to receive a device, each student must have returned their [acceptable use policy](#) and [student issued device agreement](#) to the school office.** 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. If your child has not returned either form, please do so before winter break to ensure he or she will receive their device.

We are excited to partner with you on the WE are Empowered program for your child.

Please contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Suzanna Davis

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Lakota East High School

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