



Brady Middle School
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August 3, 2018

Dear Parents,

Once school is underway, students will be issued a Chromebook laptop computer, provided the student and a parent review and agree to the policies contained in this letter. On a daily basis, students will pick up their device from a designated classroom, be responsible for its use and care, and return it to the same location at dismissal. Students will not be permitted to remove the Chromebook from school.

Initially launched at the start of the 2013-14 school year, placing technology in the hands of each Brady student has helped to transform the educational landscape. Some highlights include:

- Students are able to access learning resources anytime, anywhere.
- Teachers are able to provide differentiated materials based on individual student's needs.
- Increased opportunities for student/teacher/parent collaboration and communication.
- Students are more organized and better able to keep track of homework and learning materials.

Students will receive training and instruction on computer management, safety, and usage rules prior to distribution. As indicated above, there are many educational benefits to the use of Chromebooks within the school setting. With this use comes student responsibility for appropriate use and care of the Chromebooks.

To help protect the District's substantial investment, each student will be charged a \$40 fee to cover the costs of an accidental protection and damage program.

Chromebooks that are broken or fail to work properly are to be taken to the Tech Office located in the back of the library during a student's Pride or study hall period. Provided the damage is due to an accident as opposed to negligent or intentional misuse, costs associated with the repair or replacement of the chromebook will be covered. If a loaner Chromebook is needed, one will be issued to the student until their Chromebook can be repaired or replaced.

The Orange City School District has made a commitment to provide all students and staff with technology for the purpose of advancing educational objectives. Digital tools, when used effectively, can improve communication, productivity, and achievement. To increase the likelihood that students' technology use focuses on school-related content, we will continue to use Hapara Highlights. This web-based software provides teachers with full visibility of their students' current Internet viewing on devices connected to the school network. The ability to support students' continued development of digital citizenship skills depends on increased awareness of their online behaviors while in the classroom.

In addition to increasing students' safety when conducting searches on the Internet, use of Hapara Highlights will also provide:

- A secure browser to prevent students from accessing other sites during computer-based test sessions.

- The ability to push academic content to students' devices while blocking access to unrelated sites. This will help increase students' attention to the assigned task.
- Opportunities for teachers to share curriculum resources and provide feedback to students during classroom instruction.

Use of Hapara Highlights will increase our ability to authentically engage students in a positive, supportive, nurturing, and safe environment and foster the development of technology habits that will result in success in high school, college and career.

Please note: Given the advantages outlined above, students are **no longer permitted** to use a laptop computer from home for completing work at school as assigned by teachers. Issues related to student use of family-owned laptops at school (damage/theft, academic dishonesty, internet safety) make it necessary to suspend the BYOD (bring your own device) practice.

Important Notices

There are a number of policies that all parents and students must read and understand in order to use wireless devices while at school. Parents and students are asked to review the Board policies linked below, in reference to technology use on school grounds:

- [Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety Agreement](#)
- [Policy 5136: Personal Communication Devices](#)
- [Policy 5136.01: Electronic Equipment](#)
- [Policy 5513: Care of School Property](#)

Acknowledgement Form

Please answer the questions on the electronic acknowledgement form in the parent portal. Responding to the questions will help verify that you and your child have read and understand the policies related to technology use at school. We also have a few questions that will help us determine the number of students who have access to technology and the internet at home. Please complete the electronic form by **Friday, August 17**. Students will not be issued a Chromebook laptop computer until the form is completed.

Parent Portal log-in: <http://www.orangeschools.org/parentportal>

If you have any questions, please contact one of the following staff members:

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