

Dear Parents,

The Rib Lake School District views technology as a valuable tool in developing lifelong learners and is supplying students in grades 3rd - 12th with assigned Chromebook devices. Students in grades 9-12 are allowed to take these devices home with them as needed to foster independent learning skills and to have the opportunity to take classes and dual credit coursework through online learning. Students in grades 3-8 will be using Chromebooks on a daily basis, but will not be allowed to take their device out of the respective building they attend. K-2nd grade classrooms will use iPads to reinforce classroom instruction and enhance learning opportunities for students.

Our teachers are, and will remain, the most important resource for students. While nothing can replace the value received through the student/teacher interaction and direct instructions, the Chromebooks and iPads are tools that accelerate differentiated and personalized learning. This technology provides both teachers and students with instructional tools that extend learning beyond the classroom walls and inspire collaboration, cooperation, critical thinking, and communication.

Our goals for technology are to:

1. Enhance, expand, and accelerate learning. Digital technology allows students to interact with the world in ways that traditional textbooks and curriculum alone cannot. Although this goal can be seen district wide, our most visible examples of expanding our curriculum are reflected in the the number of independent learning and dual credit classes being taken at the high school level.
2. Provide personalized instruction. Blended learning, digital textbooks, curriculum materials, and apps that allow students to progress at a rate suited to their personal abilities and provide students with a variety of instructional tools allowing the student to learn in a way that best meets their individualized needs.
3. Improve student collaboration and engagement. Digital collaboration tools help students easily share information and ideas with their peers. Research shows students are more engaged in learning and sharing what they have learned, when they are given the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge using creative and collaborative apps. Research also indicates that students, in a virtual environment, collaborate more frequently and with a more diverse set of peers than in a standard classroom.

Technology as a learning tool is on display at every level of the district as evidenced by the personalized, blended, project based, and independent learning activities. These options are designed to improve student learning and to offer opportunities not available to a small rural district. If you have questions about the technology in our district or classrooms, do not hesitate to contact the teacher, building principal or myself.

Sincerely,

Rick Cardey
District Administrator