

Central Office

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## Dear Parents.

Your children, our students, deserve the best. This is one of the reasons we are implementing a one-to-one (1:1) initiative for all students in grades two through twelve. This initiative will allow our students to use technology to accomplish 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and learn about technology in a controlled, supervised environment. It is our intent to create an engaging learning environment for all students while developing the skills necessary to be good digital citizens.

What is 1:1? A 1:1 program is when every student in a school or grade level has access to an electronic device in order to use the Internet, digital course materials, and digital textbooks. At Cheektowaga Central we have chosen to use Chromebooks for our implementation. The reasons for this include lower cost, ease of management, and durability. Our program is designed that students in grades two through six will keep their Chromebook in school. Students in grades seven through twelve will be expected to be responsible for their Chromebook in the same way they are expected to take care of their textbooks and will take them home. Think of Chromebooks as the new textbook of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. These students need to have access to this "textbook" at school and home.

However all of this might raise some questions. We have developed a page of frequently asked questions (FAQ) on our website. We encourage you to look there for information. We have also included other resources that might be helpful. The website address is http://www.cheektowagak12.org/121

Finally the most important question is why? Some immediate reasons for a 1:1 program are:

- Greater student engagement
- More creative learning outlets
- Personalized learning
- Improved teacher/student communication
- Opportunities for 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills

The reality is many school districts across the United States have advanced to a 1:1 environment. Their students have an advantage over ours but that is going to end this year. Our students deserve the best because they are best.

In conclusion, you can expect further communication from your child's school. There will be expectations of your child to be responsible but without an opportunity to try, you cannot be successful.

Yours in Education,

Steven Wright Assistant Superintendent