



GRACE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

ENABLE | EQUIP | CULTIVATE

## GIS 1:1 Chromebook Program

### Introduction:

Technology is reshaping our world – how we work, interact, and create and consume information. In schools, *skillful incorporation of technology* into teaching and learning offers the possibility of more instructional choices for teachers and improved outcomes for students, particularly in the areas of collaboration, communication, and creativity (21st Century Skills).

### Background:

Grace International School continually evaluates how well we are preparing our students for their tomorrow. Thus at the end of the 2015-2016 school year, GIS made a philosophical change in the way technology is utilized in our Middle and High Schools. As such, we instituted a 1:1 Chromebook program, meaning each student has a Chromebook. The reason for this change was to provide the 1:1 technology resources that are necessary to effectively integrate technology into curriculum and instruction in order to improve student learning, increase learning opportunities, and encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods. Our vision is a student-centric learning environment where the use of modern technology is *routine, transparent, and supports curricular goals & 21st Century Skills*.

We believe that integrating technology into curriculum and instruction:

- offers educators effective ways to reach different types of learners
- empowers students' intrinsic motivation for learning
- allows for multiple ways of assessing student progress
- enhances communication between teachers and students
- enables teachers to become facilitators of learning
- makes learning more meaningful and engaging for students
- fosters 21st Century Skills
- promotes active student participation
- encourages student participation in groups
- facilitates frequent interaction and feedback between students and teachers
- establishes connections to real-world experts
- encourages students to think creatively
- prepares students for college and careers
- is most effective when transparent and is driven by curriculum and instruction

### Our Program:

All GIS full-time Middle and High School students participate in the 1:1 Program in one of the following ways:

## **GIS Owned Chromebook with Blocks i Filter**

- A. Benefits - GIS purchases and provides a Chromebook for your child. By default GIS installs an additional filtering program, called Blocks i, which provides content filtering on the Chromebooks for students regardless of their location, both in school and outside of school. Content filtering is managed by the school and not the parent.
- B. Challenges - Some parents may desire to use a different filtering program or no filtering, and having Blocks i installed may interfere with that. Content filtering is managed by the school and not the parent.

## **GIS Owned Chromebook with Blocks i Filter & additional Blocks i Parent Dashboard**

- A. Benefits - Provides parents optional additional features using the Dashboard, such as website blacklisting (blocking), monitoring, and time controls. Using the time control feature, parents have the ability to completely disable the Chromebook altogether (could be used to lock down the device after school hours).
  - B. Challenges - Requires parents to register for an account on the [Blocks i website](#). For instructions on how to do this, please click [here](#). When signing up, please ensure you use the email that the school has on file or your account will not be validated. Once you are registered and your request has been validated, you should have access to the Parent Dashboard where you can view your child's online activity. To learn more about the Blocks i Parent Dashboard, you can enroll in a \$1 Parent course on the Blocks i website [here](#). You can also check the Blocks i Parent Resource page which includes Parent Guides and FAQs [here](#).
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## **Frequently Asked Questions regarding the GIS 1:1 Chromebook Program:**

- 1. **What does 1:1 mean?**  
1:1 means one device per student. This means each and every Middle and High School student at GIS will be issued a chromebook to use in and outside of the classroom.
- 2. **How should my child best take care of the Chromebook?**  
Please see the [GIS Chromebook Care Policy](#).
- 3. **What happens in the event that the Chromebook is lost or stolen?**  
Loss or damage will be covered by our [Chromebook Accidental Damage and Loss Policy](#) with the exception of loss or damage due to extreme negligence or intent.
- 4. **Can a student use a Mac, Windows, or other device instead?**  
No. For continuity, all students must use a school issued Chromebook.

**5. Can a student use their own Chromebook?**

Students are not permitted to use their own Chromebook at school. They must use the school-issued Chromebook. They can use any device at home.

**6. If the battery dies, can students charge at school?**

No. They need to bring the Chromebook to school fully charged each day. The battery life is sufficient for the duration of the school day.

**7. Can students decorate the Chromebook?**

No. Students may not decorate GIS-owned Chromebooks.

**8. Can students use regular Google Play?**

They can install pre-approved apps from the GIS App Store. Students and parents can suggest apps by emailing [helpdesk@gisthailand.org](mailto:helpdesk@gisthailand.org).

**9. What about virus protection and using USB?**

Students may use USB drives with their Chromebooks. Google: “Chromebooks are designed from the ground up with security in mind, so you’ll be safe from viruses and malware.”

**10. How will students be able to identify the device?**

Students should know the number on the bottom of their Chromebook. A student can put their name in the card window on the provided Chromebook bag if desired. We also have device records in our management console in the IT Department.

**11. What happens if a GIS-Owned Chromebook is lost or stolen?**

If the device cannot be found, parents must pay the 3,000-baht deductible and the student will be issued a new Chromebook. Family-owned devices are not covered.

**12. What do students do when they participate in sports? Are there lockers?**

The athletics department has lockers for students to put their things in during PE class and athletic events. Students should put a lock on their locker in the athletic department during those times. Please contact the Athletic Office to talk about the option of a lock.

**13. Can students access social media sites?**

Students may access some social media sites outside school, depending on parent controls via the Blocks Parent Dashboard.

**14. Can students access inappropriate sites?**

GIS has a security device, called a firewall, installed on campus that protects all GIS devices from outside risks. The firewall also uses a filtering service to screen content on our school network for all GIS devices. No filter can give 100% protection, and parents are ultimately

responsible to set guidelines and manage the use of their child's Chromebook. Parents are expected to be knowledgeable about issues related to their child's internet access and use. Students are also responsible for choices they make and should be held accountable for material viewed on the internet. At school, sites are filtered through our firewall. The devices are also set to always enforce safe search and YouTube restricted mode regardless of where they are used. In addition, outside of school, GIS administration believes it is our responsibility to provide a school-managed content filtration system (Blocksi) to protect all our devices, regardless of location. Content filtration beyond the school-provided option is the sole responsibility of parents. Technical support provided by the GIS IT department is limited to school-provided content filtering.

**15. Is there a way to limit the time students spend on the Chromebook?**

Currently we don't have the ability to limit the amount of time. However, parents can sign up for the optional Blocksi Parent Dashboard and set time controls on the Chromebook for their own children. We encourage parents to set reasonable expectations within your home.

**16. Does GIS intend to use Chromebooks as the main education tool?**

Chromebooks are a tool intended to supplement learning and enable students to deepen their understanding. While they can make learning more accessible, the main goal is to provide educational opportunities only possible with technology and encourage students to be independent learners less reliant on teachers as the sole source of information. Students may use the devices to work on projects, homework, and research; they will not forgo paper and pencil. The teachers will determine when they can be used in the classroom.

**17. Where can students access information on the available Chromebook apps?**

All forms and basic Google training is accessible by students [here](#).