ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Chesapeake Science Point Elementary School
1503 Signature Dr. | Hanover, MD 21076 | 443-883-3919 · FAX 443-883-3922

Dear CSPES Families,

I am writing to remind all families that during the 25-26 school year, we began implementing the Bring Your Own Device policy, due to recent budget constraints, Chesapeake Science Point Elementary will continue to implement a **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy**. This means that all students will need to bring their own Chromebook for use both at school and at home. We are unable to provide school-issued devices for every student as we have in previous years. However, a limited number of devices will be available to rent at a cost of $100 per year, which may be waived for students with a documented financial need. If you are interested in renting a Chromebook for the 26-27 school year, **please complete this form** as soon as possible.

The BYOD policy was approved by the Governance Board in February 2024. We understand that this change may cause frustration for some families, particularly regarding the limitations on school-issued Chromebooks. Many families hoped to use these devices for both personal and school purposes, but our policies are designed to ensure compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). CIPA mandates that schools protect students from harmful online content, and our managed devices use tools like Google and GoGuardian to maintain appropriate filtering and monitoring. This helps keep students focused on educational activities and provides a safer online environment.

There are advantages to our current managed device policy:

- **Enhanced Security and Protection**: Managed devices ensure that students are protected from harmful content and reduce the risk of vulnerabilities.
- **Focus on Educational Use**: Limiting the device to school-related activities helps maintain a strong focus on learning.

While we understand the desire for a device that can be used for both personal and school purposes, managed school devices help us better protect students and ensure they are used appropriately for learning.

Please review the FAQ found below for more information about the BYOD Program, including benefits, security details, and recommended devices.

We understand that this transition may bring challenges, but we appreciate your understanding and support in continuing to provide the best educational environment for our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us.

Thank you for your partnership.

Warm regards,

Tabatha Camacho
Principal, Chesapeake Science Point Elementary

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Chesapeake Science Point Elementary School
1503 Signature Dr. | Hanover, MD 21076 | 443-883-3919 · FAX 443-883-3922

FAQs

BYO Device Program & Chromebook Configuration

Q- What are the benefits of a BYOD Program?

Cost Efficiency: Reduces the financial burden on the school as students use their own devices.
Customized Learning: Students can tailor their educational tools to their personal learning styles.
Enhanced Engagement: Familiarity with personal devices can increase student engagement and efficiency.
Parental Involvement: Easier for parents to monitor and engage in their child's learning.
Real-World Skills: Helps students develop digital literacy and technology skills needed in the workforce.

Q- What is BYOD? What do parents need to do?

BYOD is a Bring Your Own Device program. Parents should provide a portable electronic device such as a Chromebook or Laptop for use at school and at home.

Q- Why does my device need to be configured by the school?

A- CSPES is using Google's management platform for student emails, devices, and apps. The main purpose of this registration is authorizing your device for our network and deploying the testing applications to your device. Without this configuration, your device won't be able to connect to our school Wi-Fi and your student won't have access to computer-based assessments and assignments.

Q- What happens if the device breaks while my child is at school?

The student will put the device away and take it home at the end of the school day and then the student and parent can troubleshoot the device. Schools have limited resources and cannot provide comprehensive support for the wide variety of devices allowed under this program. The school may provide a loaner device for the day in emergencies.

Q- Limited Rentals Available

A limited number of devices are available for $100 per school year (may be waived for families with a documented financial need). Students are responsible for the proper care and use of rental devices. Device damage will be assessed at the end of each school year, and students will be charged for any damage incurred. If you are interested in renting a Chromebook for the 25-26 school year, **please complete this form** as soon as possible.

Q- Why isn't the school providing devices like it has in past school years?

In the past, the purchase of Chromebooks has been funded through ESSER grants, federal funds provided to public schools due to the pandemic, which is expired in 2024. Moreover, Maryland has changed its funding formula for public schools with the Blueprint for Maryland law. The new law has caused a 12% loss in funding for CSP, a loss of over $2 million dollars in the annual budget. The BYOD program and other measures will allow the school to save significant expenses and continue offering its current programs with no cuts.

Q- Should I save my Google Drive files to another place before bringing them for configuration?

A- No, only save your local data. This configuration won't affect your Google Drive files.

!!! Important !!! -- Please save your local data to another device, external drive or Google Drive before bringing your device for configuration. Since your device will be configured and registered to the school domain, the local files will be deleted automatically.

Q- After configuration will my device be connected to the school Wi-Fi automatically?

A- Yes, your device will be connected to the school Wi-Fi automatically and school-based apps will be installed to your device.

Q- After configuration, will I be able to use this device with my home Wi-Fi?

A- Yes, you can connect your device to your home Wi-Fi.

Q- After configuration will there be any restrictions on my device?

A- No, there won't be any restriction on your device.

Q- Can I bring my Windows/Mac laptop or tablet device for configuration?

A- No, your device has to be a Chrome OS system operated device. Windows, Mac, Android and IOS devices are not compatible with the school.

Q- Are students allowed to use personal Windows/Mac laptops or tablet devices at school?

A- No, your device has to be a Chrome OS device and configured by the school. Apple products cannot be supported.

Q- Who will be responsible in case of any repair or replacement needs for my device?

A- You will be responsible for your device. We recommend purchasing a durable Chromebook and we also suggest purchasing a robust accidental damage plan from your retailer of choice to cover potential damage to the Chromebook. You also may consider purchasing a case. Students are expected to have their Chromebook during their entire enrollment here at our school.

Q- Will there be any fee for this configuration?

A- No. CSP will provide the Chromebook licenses and it will be free.

A- No. Our system is compatible with all chrome OS devices which are currently on the market. But we recommend you to purchase a newer model. Many brands make Chromebooks, you may decide which is best for your student. See device recommendations below. Apple products are not supported.

Q- Is this configuration permanent?

A- Your device will stay configured while your child is a CSP student. Configuration will be removed when your child graduates from CSP.

Q- How long does the configuration take?

A- Approximately 10 – 15 minutes. We will configure student chromebooks during the school day throughout the month of September

---

🔍 **Device Recommendations for CSP Families** 🔍

Many parents have asked for recommended devices for their students. The most important requirement is that the Chromebook must still be eligible for updates. 📆✨ You can check the update availability for Chromebooks here.

We **highly recommend the models we use at school** as they tend to be a bit more durable for student use:

💻 **Recommended Models:**

- HP Fortis G1i 11
- HP Fortis G1m 11
- HP Fortis G1i 14
- HP Chromebook 14 inch 14a-nk0xxx
- HP Fortis Flip G1i (or G1m) 11
- Lenovo Chromebook 100e Gen 5
- Lenovo 500e Chromebook Gen 4s
- Lenovo Chromebook 500e 2-in-1 Gen 5 (MTK)

Make sure to pick a device that continues to receive updates for the best learning experience! 🚀🚀🚀🚀🚀