

Thank you, S, for graciously sharing your emails with us. S first spoke with the middle school principal and counselor about approaching the teachers to reduce/turn in her daughter's laptop- then she emailed each of her then-6th-grader's teachers. Each teacher was supportive!

Subject: [child's name] Chromebook reduction plan

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This one is to the **social studies teacher**:

Dear Ms. [],

I'm writing to talk about a Chromebook reduction plan for [student]. Specifically, I'd like for her to do as much of her schoolwork with paper and pencil for the rest of the year. My understanding is that Social Studies is completely analog already, so I assume this plan won't affect your class at all. :) (THANK YOU for continuing to teach our kids the fundamentals of learning and studying and for giving them a chance to practice their handwriting!)

For your awareness, my goal is to turn in her 1:1 Chromebook by the end of this quarter and have her use a home computer when needed for homework, and a loaner for in-class work that can't be converted to paper. I met with [principal] and [counselor] yesterday, and am emailing all her teachers today to ask if they can support this request.

Hope you're well! Thank you again for all your hard work and inspiring teaching!

Best,

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This one is for the **ELA teacher**:

Dear Ms. [],

I'm writing to talk about a Chromebook reduction plan for [student]. Specifically, I'd like for her to do as much of her schoolwork with paper and pencil for the rest of the year. My goal is to turn in her 1:1 Chromebook by the end of this quarter, have her use our home computer for homework that can't be completed on paper, and a loaner for in-class work that can't be converted to paper. I met with [principal] and [counselor] yesterday, and am emailing all her teachers today to ask if you all can support this request.

My understanding is that ELA is currently a mix of digital and analog work already, which is great. So my question is: how much of the current Chromebook-based assignments would you be comfortable with [student] converting to paper for the rest of this school year?

I know essay drafts and spelling packets are already on paper (which is amazing -- THANK YOU!). I like the idea of her continuing to type her final drafts for submission, though I would like for her to submit paper copies if that's not too inconvenient for you. What do you think about her doing vocabulary assignments and comprehension questions on paper?

I realize this request may be extra work for you, and that's really not my intention. I am happy to print things out as needed, and if there's anything else I can do to make this request less onerous for you, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Thank you so much for all your hard work and transformative teaching! And please let me know if you'd like to discuss this request (or the reasons for it) in person or on the phone!

Best,  
(cell: \*\*\*)

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This one is to the math teacher, which I was a little worried about but it turned out okay. :)

Dear [],

I'm writing to talk about a Chromebook reduction plan for [student]. Specifically, I'd like for her to do as much of her schoolwork with paper and pencil for the rest of the year. My goal is to turn in her 1:1 Chromebook by the end of this quarter, have her use our home computer for homework that can't be completed on paper, and a loaner for in-class work that can't be converted to paper. I met with [principal and counselor] yesterday, and am emailing all her teachers today to ask if you all can support this request -- even if just on a trial basis.

My understanding is that usually in-class work in 6th grade math is screen-free anyway, with the exception of reviewing the results of pretests, taking certain types of tests, and occasional Mathia work.

What do you think about this proposal for those exceptions?

- Pretests completed on paper as homework and reviewed in class on paper instead of on Carnegie Learning
- All tests completed on paper, collected, and graded on paper.

- Mathia done on home computer only. If there is a time when students do Mathia in class, [student] instead completes paper homework (the worksheets from the book) or spends time doing test corrections.

I realize this request may mean extra work for you, and that's really not my intention. I am happy to print things out myself if needed, and if there's anything else I can do to make this request less onerous for you, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Thank you so much for all your hard work inside and outside the classroom. And please let me know if you'd like to discuss this request (or the reasons for it) in person or on the phone!

Best,  
(cell: \*\*\*)

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This was the trickiest one - science is the only class that is 100% digital. I had previously bought her the hard copy textbook (used on Amazon!) so that helped. I was surprised he agreed to it, because previously he had said that science tests are not printable at all. (Surprise - they ARE printable.)

Dear [],

I'm writing to talk about a Chromebook reduction plan for [student]. I'd like her to do as much schoolwork as possible with paper and pencil for the rest of the year. My goal is to turn in her 1:1 Chromebook by the end of this quarter.

In quarter 3, she can use our home computer for homework that can't be completed on paper, and a loaner computer for the in-class work that can't be converted to paper. I met with [principal and counselor] on Friday, and I am emailing all her teachers this weekend to ask if you all can support this request -- even if just on a trial basis.

Here's a breakdown of how I foresee this going in science:

Using her hard-copy textbook (exact same content as the eText -- I checked), she can:

- follow along with the eText's read-alouds
- highlight the text/make notes in margins
- complete all interactive exercises (academic vocabulary, reading checks, math toolbox, lesson checks, quest check ins, case studies, Review and Assess, uDemonstrate Labs)

Using printed-out paper copies of the the following, she can use a pencil to complete:

- ulnvestigate labs
- other supplemental worksheets

However, I see the following as still presenting a challenge:

- graded interactivity tasks
- graded tests and quizzes

Here are my follow-up questions about these:

- 1) are the interactivity assignments completed in class or at home? (if at home, she can complete them on our home computer)
- 2) if the interactive assignments are done in class, she look on with a classmate but write her responses in her notebook or on a separate paper (and hand it in if needed)?
- 3) tests and quizzes -- [student] would prefer a written test to an oral one; how is the quest for printable written quizzes and tests?

I realize this request means extra work for you, and I apologize. I am happy to print things out myself if needed, and if there's anything I can do to make things less onerous for you, please let me know.

Are you willing to let [student] try out this tech-light idea and see how it goes?

Thank you so much for your patience. Let me know if you'd like to discuss this request further in person or on the phone!

Best,  
(cell: \*\*\*)

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This one is for the **Intercultural Education** teacher:

Dear [],

I hope you're doing well! Thank you for your response about bringing cadets to Spanish and Intercultural Ed. I will send you some dates that work for us and we can begin planning!

Right now, I'm writing to tell you about a Chromebook reduction plan for [student], who will be in your Intercultural Ed class next quarter. I am requesting that she do as much of her schoolwork with paper and pencil as possible, for the rest of the year.

My goal is to turn in her 1:1 Chromebook at the end of this quarter. She will use our home computer for homework that can't be completed on paper, and a loaner for in-class work that can't be converted to an analog/paper alternative. I met with [principal and counselor] yesterday, and am emailing all her teachers today to ask if you all can support this request.

I understand that Intercultural Ed does a lot of hands-on activities already, which is fantastic! My question for you is: how much of the current Chromebook-based assignments would you be comfortable with [student] converting to paper for the rest of this school year? This might look like her doing posters instead of slideshow presentations, or doing any writing assignments on paper instead of Google Docs. This would also involve printing out reading assignments or worksheets.

I realize this request may be extra work for you, and that's really not my intention. I am happy to print things out as needed, and if there's anything else I can do to make this request less onerous for you, please don't hesitate to let me know!

Thank you so much for everything you do for the students! [student] is so excited to start your class. And please let me know if you'd like to discuss this request (or the reasons for it) in person or on the phone.

Best,  
(cell: \*\*\*)

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**Email to kindergarten teacher**

Hi []!

I am writing regarding [student] and iPads. Specifically, I'd like for [student] to not use the school iPads, except if it's required for testing that cannot be done on paper. Would it be possible for you to support this request?

My understanding is that the learning in your classroom is almost all analog already (on paper rather than on the iPads) which is really awesome!

I realize this request may mean extra work for you, and that's really not my intention. If there are learning tasks that are usually done on the iPad, I am happy to print things out for her if needed.

If there's anything else I can do to make this request less onerous for you, such as providing alternate activities or books for times when other students are on the iPad, please don't hesitate to let me know.

[student] likes using the iPads, so if you agree then I will discuss this with her so she knows what to expect - and I will make sure she knows this isn't coming from you, and isn't punitive, but that it's coming from our family.

Thank you so much for all your hard work and teaching! [student] is learning so much and thriving in your classroom. And please let me know if you'd like to discuss this request (or the reasons for it) in person or on the phone!

Thanks for considering!

#### **Email to 1st grade teacher**

Dear [],

I am [student]'s mom. I am so glad that you're going to be [student]'s teacher this year! I have heard wonderful things about you.

I'm writing to see if you'd be able to help with this: my husband and I would like for [student] to avoid using the classroom iPads as much as possible. This is for multiple reasons, including her eyes/vision; I am happy to provide more details if you're wanting to understand our rationale.

I understand that some things must be done on the iPad, such as required testing/MAP. If you are able to help us with minimizing her iPad use, even if just on a trial basis for now, we would truly appreciate it!

This request will likely make more work for you, and that's not our intent at all. If it would be helpful, we are happy to support you by printing things out, donating printer paper, or providing books/alternate activities for her to do.

Even if this request is not doable for you, we are grateful for [student] being in your class & look forward to her learning from you!

Best regards,

**Email to 4th grade teacher**

Dear [],

I am [student]'s mom. I am so glad that you're going to be [student]'s teacher this year! She is looking forward to meeting you!

I'm writing to see if you'd be able to help with this: my husband and I would like for [student] to minimize using the classroom laptops, doing as much schoolwork as possible with paper and pencil. This is for multiple reasons, including her eyes/vision; I am happy to provide more details if you're wanting to understand our rationale.

We understand that some things must be done on the laptop, such as required testing/STAAR/MAP. If there is in-class work that can't be converted to paper, we understand. If you are able to help us with minimizing her laptop use when possible (aside from required testing), even if just on a trial basis for now, we would truly appreciate it!

I realize this request means extra work for you, and I apologize. If there's anything we can do to make this request less onerous for you, please let us know. We are happy to support you in whatever manner would help: such as by printing things out, providing extra printer paper, purchasing the curricula you use in textbook format, supplying books for any research projects.

Are you willing to let [student] try out this tech-light idea and see how it goes?

Even if this request is not doable for you, we are grateful for [student] being in your class & look forward to her learning from you! Thank you so much for your consideration. Let me know if you'd like to discuss this matter further or on the phone!

All the best,  
(cell: \*\*\*)