



## Project STRIVE FAQ's for Students & Parents\ Grades 9-12

### **How much do I have to pay for my laptop?**

- An annual \$25.00 technology rental fee will be required before laptop checkout. This money will go into a pool to pay for insurance as well as deductibles on claims not covered by Apple Care. While we reserve the right to charge more for intentional or malicious damage or theft, we don't anticipate any student being financially burdened by any costs associated with this initiative.

### **Is participation mandatory? Does my student have to have a computer?**

- Participation is not mandatory. We highly encourage you to take one because the laptop initiative will allow your student's learning to be seamless and continuous. The 1-2-1 laptop program brings individual learning to your student and provides your student the ability to "connect" with peers, teachers, and the world.

### **What if my family does not want to participate?**

- The laptop is a required tool for learning during the school day and many teachers will be utilizing the technology during the school year. We want all students to have the same equipment and the same opportunity to succeed in the classroom. If families do not wish to allow their child to take the laptop home, you will need to leave your laptop at school with Mrs. Clayton at the end of the day and pick it up each morning before class.

### **Where does the money come from for the laptops?**

- The annual lease of the laptops will be financed by REAP grant funds and the state tax penny funds.

### **Why did the school choose Apple laptops?**

- Apple has a long-standing tradition of partnering with public education and designing programs that are targeted for the classroom. They provide relevant staff training and hardware support. The MacBook is designed to spend time traveling in a case wherever you need to take it. The design eliminates parts that can snag or break off and the case is durable.

### **If my student is a senior, can he purchase the laptop at the end of the year?**

- No. The computers are leased and will not belong to us for four years.

### **What if my laptop is stolen?**

- A police report must be filed by you and your family within 24 hours of the theft.

### **If I already have an Internet provider at home, will my student be able to use our service with the school's laptop?**

- Yes. Your student will be able to switch from the school's Internet access to your Internet provider. If software provided by your Internet provider needs to be installed, we will assist with that. You do not need wireless at home—you can connect the laptop to your DSL modem with an Ethernet cable. The laptop will not work with a dial-up connection.

**Do we have to have Internet access at home?**

- No. Students will be able to complete homework assignments at home and turn in their work when they return to school the next day. There is Internet access available at the Sidney Public Library also.

**Who will monitor my student's Internet access at home?**

- Parents will need to be involved with their student's use of the Internet and monitor the use of the Internet at home.

**Can my student arrive early or stay late at school to do research, etc.?**

- The high school building is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each school day.

**What happens if the laptop stops working?**

- AppleCare is the name of Apple's Protection Plan and our lease includes this service for the entire 4 years. Most often laptops will have to be mailed in to AppleCare and should be returned to us in working condition or replaced within a week or two. Loaner laptops will be available for students while theirs is being repaired, and they will be able to access their files and documents from the server to use with the loaner laptop.

**If my student's laptop breaks, who will determine if the problem is a manufacturing defect or if it is negligence on the part of the student?**

- The insurance company will determine if it is a covered loss. Intentional damage or malicious mischief will result in 100% of the replacement or repair being paid by the student.

**What happens if someone else intentionally damages my student's laptop?**

- This would be vandalism. If it happens at school and can be proven, a police report will be filed. The student who vandalized the computer would pay the full cost to replace or repair the damage. If it happened at school, disciplinary action will be taken. If the student who vandalizes the computer refuses or fails to pay restitution for the damage, the case will be turned over to the County Attorney.

**Can we swap power cords and batteries?**

- No. Every battery and power cord is labeled with the ID number of the laptop that it belongs to. Students need to be responsible for their own equipment. At the end of the year, students will be responsible for returning the same laptop, power cord, and battery that was checked out to them.

**Can I carry my MacBook in my own case or backpack?**

- No. Students must carry their MacBook in the school-issued case only. This is the only way we can ensure adequate protection... especially to the display (screen), the most fragile part of the laptop.

**Can the students change the outward appearance of their laptop?**

- Only the provided identification label should be on the outside of the computer. No other items of any kind can be added to the laptop.

**Can I use my laptop during breakfast or lunch?**

- No. Laptops are not allowed in the Commons during mealtimes. Food & drinks should always be kept away from your laptop.

### **How will the school know what we do on the MacBooks?**

- Apple Remote Desktop can be used to watch, block, send messages, etc., at any time you are on the local network. Student will randomly be monitored throughout the school day. Refer to the Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Laptop Acceptable Use Policy. The policies and procedures outlined in those documents will be enforced.

### **Where does a student go for technical support?**

- Library—Mrs. Clayton

### **What happens when I need help with my laptop at home or on the weekends?**

- Students can email tech support at: STRIVEhelp@sidney.k12.ia.us. This will send a request to Mrs. Clayton. Students can also communicate with each other for mutual peer support.

### **What if I forget my laptop at home?**

- As a responsible student, you must bring all the necessary tools with you to school each day. This is not an excuse to not participate in class. Students can use classroom or lab computers.

### **How do I deal with the power limitations of a laptop?**

- Students should charge their laptop every night at home and always bring it to school fully charged. A fully charged battery should get at least 4 hours of use during the school day. Students will carry their power cords with them in their cases and, if needed, could plug into outlets and power strips to charge in any class. Supervised places such as the library could possibly be used as charging stations over lunch, etc., if needed.

### **Can I listen to music if finished with all work?**

- This is a decision left up to the individual teacher. Headphones must be used at all times. Students must provide their own headphones. Profanity, explicit lyrics, and/or any derogatory language on the school-issued computer are against the Project STRIVE Policy and could be cause for disciplinary action.

### **Where do I print?**

- Over time, the printing needs will decrease. When a print out is absolutely necessary, students can print to the Library laser printers through the network. A printer driver can be installed on student machines for at home printing, but students will need to arrange a time to download the necessary software to their machine, as software downloads are prohibited unless they are authorized.

When printing at school, make sure you know which printer you are printing to. Only print the document once. If it doesn't print, ask someone for help. Don't close the lid of your laptop until your document is printed. Closing the lid breaks the connection with the printer.

### **How will we back up our laptops?**

- Laptops will automatically sync with the server at login and logout and periodically throughout the day to ensure that the Documents folder and their Desktop always has a copy on the server. Music, Movies, and Photos will NOT be backed up by the server, so it is up to you to back-up with CDs, DVDs, flashdrives, etc.

### **What should I do with my laptop...**

- ...in between classes? Put the laptop to sleep and carry it in the school-issued case.
- ...during lunch? Put the laptop to sleep, put it inside the protective case, and lock it in your locker.
- ...during PE, sports practice, etc? Store laptops in the cases, locked in student lockers.  
(Laptops are not allowed in locker rooms.)
- ...on the bus to activities? Laptops are not allowed on activity buses unless specifically needed to do homework for the next day.

### **Can we take our MacBooks out of town on school/personal trips?**

- Remember, always, that the focus of the initiative is ongoing for Project STRIVE. Being able to learn while traveling or outside of the school building is a prime goal. Remember that along with this privilege is a great responsibility. Students must responsibly protect and take care of their laptop even when a teacher is not present.

### **Can everyone in my family use my laptop?**

- No. The laptop is being provided to further your education and opportunities. Therefore, it should not be used by other people or family members. Students are ultimately responsible for their laptops; just like any school-issued item.

### **Can we use our own personal MacBook (or any laptop) at school instead of the school-issued one?**

- No. While at school, everyone will need to use the school-issued computer. This will have the settings, access to the server, and programs needed by the student while at school. This policy also helps protect the school's servers and networks from viruses and other network issues. The student's personal computer may be used at home, of course.

### **Will my student use traditional textbooks?**

- Many classes will still use traditional textbooks. The laptop computer is an instructional tool to allow the student to have greater access to learning resources.

### **Will my student have an email account?**

- At this time, your student will not be given an email account unless requested by a classroom teacher. If a teacher wishes to use email for a class project, your student will be issued a Gaggle email account. Gaggle is a student/education centered safe email account for students.