



Project STRIVE FAQ's for Teachers & Staff

How much does the student have to pay for their 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.

What if a family does not want to participate?

- The laptop is a required tool for learning during the school day. 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, the student will need to leave the 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.

What if a laptop is stolen?

- A police report must be filed within 24 hours of the theft.

How will we keep students safe on the Internet?

- We will ensure that Internet access is filtered at school and at home. It is the parent's responsibility to help ensure safety at home. We have given parents and students information regarding safety on the Internet and hope they will follow our suggestions. Apple Remote Desktop will also be used so the school can watch, block, send messages, etc. at any time someone is on the local network.

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.

What if we suspect and/or notice abuse or misuse?

- Abuse should be physically obvious—misuse will have to be verified with inspection of the laptop or Apple Remote Desktop. Don't hesitate to contact the tech coordinator about these issues. We will not hesitate to take away student laptops to hopefully deter future misuse. The length or severity of the punishment will be dependent on the situation. The AUP's will be followed and repetitive offenses dealt with accordingly.

Can the students swap power cords and batteries?

- No. Although technically possible, this should not be allowed. 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 students carry their MacBook in their own case or backpack?

- No. Students must carry their MacBook in the school-issued case only. If they do want to carry it in another bag, it must be inside the school-issued case first. 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 students use their laptops 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 the students 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. The policies and procedures outlined in the AUP documents will be enforced.

Where does a student or teacher go for technical support?

- Mrs. Clayton

Where does a teacher go for technology integration support?

- Mrs. Shanno

What happens when help is needed with the laptop at home or on the weekends?

- Students should refer to the resources they received at the orientation meetings. These will also be available on the school website. They 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.

How much are we required to use the laptops in class?

- You are not required to use them. It is an additional teaching tool to assist in the learning process. Try to provide them an opportunity and the option to use the laptops for learning. However, if you do not need the laptops as an instructional tool during a class period, then the laptops should be stored in the bag or asleep (lid closed) on the desk. They are not recreational toys. They should only be used to enhance learning.

What if a student forgets his/her laptop at home?

- This will most likely happen from time to time; however, we don't want it happening often. This is not an excuse to not participate in class. Students can use classroom or lab computers. Students need to be responsible for their learning and have all the needed tools to learn at school each day. **They cannot borrow a laptop from someone else.**

How do we “see” what students are doing on their laptops during class?

- The most efficient way of monitoring student laptop use is teacher proximity. Consider seating arrangements where the students’ screens are viewable by you as you teach. Walk around the class while laptops are being used. If the student shouldn’t be using the laptop during a given part of class, then laptops should be in bags or closed on the desk.

How do we 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 students listen to music if finished with all their work?

- This is a decision left up to the individual teacher. There is a time and place for this. 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 students and teachers print?

- Over time, the printing needs will decrease. When a print out is absolutely necessary, students in grades 7-12 can print to the Library laser printers through the network. 6th Grade students can print to the printer in the Coaches’ Office across from Room 122 or to the library printers, whichever is closest.

Teachers who are closer to the Coaches’ Office than they are to the Library can print to that room instead if they wish. Care will have to be taken to not leave sensitive documents, such as grades, in the printer for anyone to see.

When printing at school, make sure the students (and you) know which printer they are printing to. Only print the document once. If it doesn’t print, ask someone for help. Students shouldn’t close the lid of their laptop until their document is printed. Closing the lid breaks the connection with the printer.

A printer driver can be installed on student or teacher machines for at home printing, but a time to install the software will need to be arranged, as software downloads are prohibited unless they are authorized.

How will students and teachers back up their laptops?

- Laptops will automatically sync with the server at login and logout and periodically throughout the day to ensure that the Documents folder and the 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 the user to back-up with CDs, DVDs, flashdrives, etc.

Can students take their 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. We have to continually remind students 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.

What should students do with their laptops...

- ...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 their 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. Coaches and sponsors will need to assist with security at activities.

Can anyone else use my laptop or a student's laptop?

- No. The laptop is being provided to further the student's education and opportunities or to enhance the teacher's lesson plans. Therefore, it should not be used by other people or family members.

Can students use their 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 the students have an email account?

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

What do we do about substitute teachers?

- We encourage substitute teachers to be informed and active in Project STRIVE. If substitutes feel more comfortable using the labs instead, teachers should plan accordingly. The Moodle server will be available for posting student assignments.

Who is responsible for making sure that Project STRIVE is a success and that the goals and initiatives are the focus of the laptop usage?

- We must all keep in mind that the laptop is not a recreational toy. From 8:00 in the morning until 3:30 in the afternoon, the laptop is to be used exclusively to enhance and compliment learning and achievement. We are all in this together. It is up to each and every one of us to help the students succeed with this great instructional tool and learning opportunity that they have been given.