

Central Decatur Community School District Laptop FAQ (Frequently asked Questions) Info for Students

When will students receive their laptops?

The student roll-out meeting is scheduled for Jan. 2, 2013 at 6 pm in the high school gymnasium.

How much do I have to pay for my laptop?

A one time refundable damage deposit of \$35.00 must be paid if you wish to take the computer home. The deposit will be returned to the family at the end of a student's educational career at Central Decatur if the computer is returned in proper working order. The computer will not be allowed leave the school if the \$35.00 has not been paid.

I have multiple students in grades 7-12 can I pay them all together?

Yes

What if my family does not want to participate?

The laptop is a required tool for learning during the school day. If families do not wish to allow their child to participate, you will pick up your laptop in the morning and check it in at the end of the school day.

What if my laptop is stolen?

A police report must be filed by you and your family within 24 hours of the theft. The school must also be notified within that time period.

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. Loaner laptops will be available for students while theirs is being repaired, and they will be able to access their files and documents from their flash drive to use with the loaner laptop.

Can we swap power cords?

Every 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 and power cord that was checked out to them.

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

Students must carry their MacBook in the school-issued case only. If you do want to carry it in another backpack, etc., then 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? (Adding decals, etc.)

As long as they follow they follow the requirements in the Laptop Computer Use Agreement.

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.

Will the laptops be collected at the end of the school year?

Yes, the laptops be collected at the end of the school year to be re-imaged and to receive updated software.

Will the student get their same assigned laptop each year?

Yes

What if I forget my laptop at home?

A desktop computer may be available to use during the school day.

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 7 hours of use during the school day. Student can carry their power cords with them in their cases and, if needed, could plug into outlets.

Can I listen to music, iChat, check my email while I work?

This a decision left up to the individual teacher, just as it is now. There is a time and a place for headphones as well as a time and place without them. Email and iChat should be used for academic-related purposes, and if abused, can be taken away on a student-by-student basis or a blanket policy change.

How will we back up our laptops?

Laptop users can sync with their flash drive periodically to ensure that their Documents folder and their Desktop always has a copy. It is up to you to back-up with a flash drives, DVD, etc.

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

Remember, always, that the focus of the initiative is on 24/7 learning. 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?

The students are ultimately responsible for their laptops; just like any school-issued item. Yet, sharing with additional family members is allowed and encouraged to further the laptop's educational benefits.

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

No. At school students 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. The student's personal computer may be used at home, of course.

Can I pay a portion of the deposit now and set up a payment schedule to pay the remaining amount and take the laptop home at Roll-Out?

The deposit must be paid in full before the laptop can be taken home.