MRCS One to One Laptop Program

Rationale: To improve the learning experience for the grade 12 students. To empower the senior students to work independently, and responsibly with technology.

Vision: Students in the Graduating class will have the use of a Chromebook, provided by MRCS, for the duration of the school year. The laptops provided will continue to be owned by MRCS even though the student will be allowed to take this device with them between classes and after school hours. As MRCS retains ownership of these devices, it allows for the provision of the school's software licenses to be pushed onto the student's device without legal complications. Students will have their own personal "standard" type account on the device. This will partially limit their ability to modify the applications, or operating system in some ways. If they find that they are unable to modify the computer to personalize it or add apps that are not approved, they will need to talk to the IT Admin person at the school. The hope for this program is that students will find success in the freedom of maintaining their own data and school work on a device that they will take personal care of.

FAQ:
- What is the benefit of a 1:1 program in Education?
    - There is a general consensus in education that the availability of resources to students markedly improves its usefulness. Shared devices reduce the student's educational efficacy due to time spent on file management, configuration, and device customization. (if a student takes ownership of the device, they'll appreciate and thus take advantage of its usefulness more)
- What are the disadvantages of a 1:1 program?
    - There are many controversies around this. Generally speaking, the most prevalent is the agreement that "screentime" is unhealthy. Though this is still being researched, it's an issue that's constantly being debated both online and in parent groups. Indeed, parents and students will be responsible for their own amount of usage, keeping in mind that too much could be considered as a negative.
- Do I need to have wireless internet at home?
    - While it's not required, it is recommended. Even before the advent of a 1:1 program at MRCS, students were required to submit the majority of their classwork online.
- Will students be allowed to install "Apps or Programs" on the computer?
    - Yes and No. Students will need to speak to the IT Administrator first to find out if the app is suitable and appropriate. Students will be able to install apps from the Google Play store using their MRCS Gmail Accounts.

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- Will students have to observe the school's network use policy while on the internet even though it's on a device that's not at school?
  - Yes. The device will at all times be monitored by the school's network and servers to ensure that the students have a safe and meaningful learning experience while on the internet. It will ultimately be up to the parents to monitor surfing habits and treatment of the laptop while in the care of the student.
  - Students and Parents will both need to be sure that the laptop is well cared for both in terms of software health and physical condition. Using the laptop in a manner that doesn't conform to the MRCS Network Use Policy and/or code of conduct will result in consequences being taken on a case by case basis.
- Will my network at home be hacked by MRCS since the school is able to monitor my child's device?
  - No. Only the device itself will initiate communication with the school, and only to send requests for websites and online resources. No other information like usernames and passwords will be logged.
- What if my child breaks the laptop?
  - Accidents happen. The hope is that students will take the best personal care and keeping of their device. However, if a device is broken while in the care of the student, said student and/or family will be responsible for the cost of the parts needed to repair. Please note that MRCS will not be responsible for maintenance or repairs needed to keep the laptop in running order.
- Will my student be given a case or a bag to carry the device in?
  - No. Students / parents will need to provide a suitable bag for their laptop.
- What happens if the device is used inappropriately?
  - The school maintains that its teachers should proactively educate the students about what to do if inappropriate content appears on their screen. In a situation where an infraction takes place, a meeting will be set up with the student, parents, the network administrator, and a member of the leadership team to determine a course of action.
- What if inappropriate content inadvertently appears on my students screen?
  - This happens all the time, and unfortunately is a side effect of the sinful world we live in. As stated above, students are taught how to deal with this at MRCS and should never "click through" to said content. The "Click through" is what will alert the network admin not the inadvertent navigation to a site that has inappropriate content .

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Often the first thought is to either deny access completely to everything or implement a content filter. SCSBC in their document *Growing Digital Citizenship*, outlines the problems with both of these approaches if used in exclusivity.

1. Complete denial of technology denies the reality that our children will at one point be exposed to the internet and technology that will most likely be used in their workplace and daily life in the future. While this is a very simple solution, it could cause unhealthy use in the future when the child is finally exposed.
2. Content filters are good, but they're never perfect. No matter how good your filter is, if your child wants to "get around" the filter, they will. Your child is learning to be more tech savvy and more clever with tech on a daily basis. Whether it be through friends devices or interesting hacks, there is simply no end to the ingenuity of our kids. Educating kids on the need for online propriety is key.

In reality we need to deal with not just a symptom of bad technology use but the root, which is in the heart (Jer. 17:9, Mk 7:21-23).

As Christians we recognize that we are sinful people and that even our children are tempted and often fail just as we do (Ge. 6:5,8:21, Ps. 51:5, Jn. 8:34). It is our responsibility to make sure that our children are reasonably safe from accessing content that will cause them to stumble and that there is a healthy dialogue at home regarding good digital citizenship.

Here are a few things that you can do to ensure the wellbeing of your child:

1. Put the devices to bed at night. When bedtime comes, devices also go to bed in an area off limits to your child.
2. Use the internet only in public places in the home. Create a public study place in your home where your child can work but will also be seen.
3. Restrict leisure hours on electronic devices. This will encourage other healthy habits not connected to technology.
4. Don't send your child to a friend's house with their device and be aware of what devices friends are bringing when they're visiting.
5. Talk to your child about their use of technology, be aware of what services they are using and how they work.
6. Read all of the privacy policies of the services your child is using or wishes to use.
7. Above all, demonstrate good technology usage yourself.

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What does MRCS do to help protect your child while online?

1. Starting in middle school, we talk about good digital citizenship. In high school, we continue this conversation and talk about appropriate usage, privacy in regards to social media, search bias in services such as Google and the importance of living a life of integrity in the digital realm and the physical world.

2. MRCS employs a network content filter and firewall that uses blacklists, keyword triggers, heuristic analysis and decryption to block most of the bad stuff. It also employs a firewall that blocks most VPN services that kids use to circumvent the filters. As I'm sure you can appreciate, while we do our best, no content filter is perfect but we try!

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Please return this signed page as a statement of my agreement to the following:

This completed letter is a signed document that states my intent to allow my son / daughter to keep care of a school owned (Maple Ridge Christian School) laptop.

By signing this letter, I agree to each of the outlined points above, and state that I will take responsibility for any damages or behaviour that my child might incur whether that be accidental or intentional. I understand that the costs outlined above will be charged to me for any repairs to the laptop. I agree to make the full payment once the required repairs are completed.

In addition to these stipulations, I agree to ensure that my son / daughter adhere to the Maple Ridge Christian School Network Use Policy as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Student Name:

Parent / Guardian's name:

Signed: Date: