



Senator Joyce Fairbairn Middle School

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Senator Fairbairn MS Laptop Initiative

RATIONALE

The intent of the Senator Joyce Fairbairn Middle School Laptop initiative is to provide exceptional learning to all of our students, all of the time. Student laptops will enhance the tools available to students and teachers as they navigate the curriculum together. Academically, we believe that having technology available, when needed, will allow students to enhance their creativity and personalize their learning styles.

USER FEES

This is not a revenue seeking initiative. All monies collected and expended will be reported annually via the School Council. Insurance costs will be adjusted year to year based on actual costs.

OWNERSHIP

While your child is attending Senator Fairbairn MS, the laptop will be considered the property of the school. It will be managed by School and School District Staff. When students leave our school, and laptop fees are paid in full, the laptop will belong to the student.

**Please note that in order to honour our licensing agreements, the laptops will be reset to their original factory settings before transferring ownership of the device.

INSURANCE

The insurance covers damages that lie outside of the warranty of the device. Whenever possible, our technology staff will do their best to repair the device. If a repair is not possible or cost effective, the device will be replaced in the first year or exchanged for a refurbished device in subsequent years. The final decision on this will be made by the Director of Technology.

The insurance does not cover lost or stolen devices. If the device is lost or stolen, the remaining cost of the computer would be owed to the school.

SCREEN TIME

We recognize that the internet can be both a powerful distractor and a powerful learning tool. Families are working to find ways to manage the growing concerns around screen time in their homes. Our schools are also dealing with the ever changing dynamic of an “online” generation. The ability for students to access the information they need and utilize a wide variety of production tools to create, share, and present their ideas using a computer that is available when needed has the potential to increase the value of screen time and limit the unstructured use of technology in our school.

Laptops will limit the need for students to use personal cell phones to access information in their classrooms. While accessing information via a cell phone can certainly be a good use of technology, and an efficient one, it too often opens the door to other uses. Teachers working with students and families to find appropriate use for the device, at home and at school, can effectively work together to find a healthy balance.

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PRIVACY

Our School District has the ability to track all data that travels over our network of files, including email. The reality is that many other platforms also track and use information we share online. The District's 'Responsible Use of Technology Policy' outlines the District's expectations with all devices accessible to students in our schools. Digital citizenship training for staff, students, and families will be a key component of this initiative:

<https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/download/187597>

APPROPRIATE USE

While the School District has enabled a powerful firewall to protect our students from accessing inappropriate sites, the devices do not have the same protections when using Wi Fi access outside of the school.

Since the device is owned by the school, the School Board Policies would remain in place wherever the device is used.

The school will provide learning opportunities for staff, students and parents regarding Digital Citizenship and appropriate use of technology.