

GENERAL DEVICE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES:

For our middle and high school students, having the device at home should be somewhat routine. For some of our elementary students, this will be a new experience in terms of having their “own” device at home. Here are some practices that might be helpful for you and your student(s):

- Our Technology Help Desk is available for support, preferably, by emailing them at helpdesk@colchestersd.org. They are also available by phone Monday - Friday from 7:30 - 4:00pm at (802) 264 - 5727 for questions about devices or their use. For questions about learning and curriculum, please direct them to your teacher. Any other questions can be routed to the Help Desk and we will triage a support person to call you back if the question cannot be answered by personnel at that time.
- Try to keep devices away from areas where accidents could occur, kitchen counters near the sink, places where water, coffee, etc. could be spilled, or accessible to very young children.
- Devices can and should be left plugged in when not being used to maintain their charge.
- Some teachers are using videoconferencing to connect with students in classroom settings. Audio can sometimes be a challenge. Experiment for the best solution. Headphones with built-in microphones, the kind that often come with cell phones are a good solution for good listening and transmitting of questions, etc. Sometimes, and especially on Chromebooks, students may find the built-in speakers and microphone work best, but this may require the student to be somewhat isolated which can be less desirable to parental supervision.
- CSD has an expectation that devices will return to school in the same condition as they left. Many have been “pulled” from other classrooms and programs within CSD, so please do not allow students to “personalize” the covers with stickers or such.
- It is very IMPORTANT that you as parents have some supervision of devices within your home. Some ways to manage this include:
 - Structuring times of use. Teachers may request students to be synchronously connected during a video conferencing time, but there are many times for asynchronous learning too, where students are working independently. You can and should limit times online, especially outside of the “school day” and encourage students to do other activities. Exercise outside, read books, do paper activities teachers have sent home, etc.
 - Students should be using the devices in open areas of your home, somewhere that an adult can monitor the online activities of students. In other words, it is probably best not to have younger students take them to their individual rooms unsupervised. We have done our best in this short

time to “block” online sites inappropriate for students, but parental supervision is the best policy.

- Be an active part of your student’s learning, asking about activities they are doing online.