

DRIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Janet O'Mara
Middle School Principal
Jomara@marcellusschools.org



2 Reed Parkway
Marcellus, NY 13108
315-673-6200

Dedicated and Motivated to Succeed!

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Over the last several months we have been working on an initiative that would provide every student in grades 3-8 with a Chromebook as a tool for their learning. One of our goals in implementing this 1:1 initiative is to promote a “blended learning” model for instruction with increased technology integration. Currently, teachers and students are using technology on a regular basis to enhance their learning, expand their resources, collaborate with each other and demonstrate their knowledge through a variety of technology formats including Chromebooks, Google Classroom and Google Apps. With each student having a device dedicated to them for their use, our ability to advance technology as a tool for learning will be enhanced.

Last spring we submitted a proposal through the Smart Schools Bond Act to support the purchase of Chromebooks. After receiving approval, creating an implementation timeline, selecting equipment, and developing procedures and expectations, we are ready to begin our implementation stage and intend to distribute Chromebooks to students in grades 7 and 8 in early December. After distribution to 7th and 8th grade students we will begin distribution to students in grades 4-6. We hope to have all Chromebooks in classrooms by holiday recess.

At this time, Chromebooks will not travel home with students. 7th and 8th grade students will carry their Chromebooks with them throughout the day to be used in classes. 4th, 5th and 6th grade student Chromebooks will be stored within the classroom and used when required for instruction. In the future, we are hoping students will be able to take Chromebooks home with them. When that time comes, we will discuss any additional/different expectations and procedures we may have for students.

On November 14th and 15th, with the help of Mrs. Sharlow (DMS Assistant Principal) and Ms. Drescher (Director of Technology), I visited all 7th and 8th grade English classes to discuss the roll-out of Chromebooks, expectations for storage/management, and to answer student questions. Our presentation is available to parents on the DMS website and will be shared with students electronically in their ELA Google Classroom. ELA teachers followed up by reviewing the proper care of Chromebooks with their students, which is also included in this mailing. Within the next few weeks we will do the same presentations for students in grades 4-6.

Also included with this mailing is the technology sign-out form for students in grades 6-8. We are asking all students and parents to review, sign and return this form to homeroom teachers. Students in grades 4 and 5 will receive the sign out sheets approximately mid-December. If you have any further questions about this initiative, please feel free to contact me.

In partnership,

Janet O'Mara
Middle School Principal