

## Why?

*Students must increasingly rely on technology to meet their learning goals in school. This is appropriate, since in their working lives they will in some way rely on technology to earn a living. The computer lab concept of the last decade, when students took special trips to a lab once and a while to do an assignment there, no longer fits a situation where the majority of school work requires a network-capable device. Clusters of computers in classrooms for students to share also no longer meet student needs. As for many schools, decreasing cost and improved miniaturization combine to permit us to provide each student a very basic computer to borrow like a textbook would*

*have been loaned in years past.*

*Students at SLCS borrow Chromebooks for their daily work.*



An article in *PCWorld Magazine* in December 2014 notes that schools are increasingly investing in Chromebooks over iPads because of the much lower cost, the continued need for keyboards, ease of management for the IT department, and the ability to share lacking in the iPad. *Education Week* noted in November 2014 that Chromebooks accounted for almost one-third of mobile-digital-device sales in the US in the first half of 2014. A list of other schools in the region lending Chromebooks to all students includes Glens Falls, Ticonderoga, Peru, and Clifton-Fine.



Schroon Lake Central School  
Schroon Lake, NY

## Chromebooks for SLCS Students



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*Chromebooks have a wide variety of “apps” for student productivity.*

The school day now begins for students with a quick visit to the cart recharging station. Here they pick up the Chromebook assigned to them and bring it to each class. During lunch, the Chromebooks are stored in a secure location, and then at the end of the day students return the device to the charging station.

As with all equipment on loan to students, they are expected to handle these devices carefully, take good care of them, put them away properly, etc. Chromebooks cannot leave the building.

## What’s a “Chromebook”?

Among technology geeks, a Chromebook is a “thin client”. That means that it’s not a full-powered computer like a laptop. It doesn’t have memory to store things like documents. It doesn’t have the computing power of a full laptop. It’s a pretty basic machine. It only runs software through a web browser. In fact, the device is fairly useless without an internet connection. For computer classes and specialized tasks, students will still need a “real” computer.

## Less

If we tried to keep the computers stationary in rooms waiting for students to come to them, we could not meet our students’ computing needs unless we



had four or more computers per student. That’s because students move from room to room and we’d need to supply each room. One solution to this is the Chromebook plan: we have the students carry their devices with them. This means we purchase fewer devices.

## What do they Do?

There is not enough space to include a complete list here, but just about any learning task is done on computers now: multiple-choice tests, review activities; even papers are turned in online now instead of being printed and are graded and commented by teachers all electronically. What we do now is better than what we used to do.

Parents can get more info about chrome books at this web site: <https://www.google.com/chromebook/>.