



Morton Community Unit School District 709

Providing an Education to Last a Lifetime

Personal Computing FAQ

Q: Why is Morton District 709 committed to a personal computing initiative?

A: To promote District 709 students' learning of 21st Century skills. School district need to set goals on what students will need when they graduate, which for our youngest Early Childhood students, will be almost 13-years.

Q1: What are 21st Century skills?

A1: 21st Century Skills would include (<http://www.p21.org/our-work/p21-framework>) :

- Global Awareness
- Financial, Economic, Business and Entrepreneurial Literacy
- Civic Literacy
- Health Literacy
- Environmental Literacy
- Creativity and Innovation
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Communication and Collaboration
- Information Literacy
- Media Literacy
- Information, Communication and Technology Literacy
- Flexibility and Adaptability
- Initiative and Self-direction
- Social and Cross-Cultural Skills
- Productivity and Accountability
- Leadership and Responsibility

Q2: How do 21st Century Skill relate to the New Illinois State Standards?

A2: The New Illinois State Standards relate to the outcomes we would expect from quality mathematical and English-language arts instruction. These standards are the focus of state assessments. 21st Century Skills are the skills needed by students, in addition to the New Illinois State Standards, to be successful adults. These skills extend beyond the core curriculum and are currently not a part of state assessments.

Q3: What is the personal computing initiative?

A3: Every 5th – 12th grade student would have access to a personal computing device (tablet, netbook, laptop).

Q4: How is this different than computer labs in schools?

A4: Currently computing devices are limited by availability of the lab, therefore 78j`kkjiikicomputing resources are not always an integral or integrated part of the instructional process.

Q5: How will the devices be used?

A5: The goal for the personal computing devices is to use them to enhance our instruction and not just replace what we currently do. Enhancement can come in the forms of better communication, collaboration, access to information, individualization of instructions and higher student engagement.

Q6: Why do 5th – 8th grade students use a district owned device and 9th – 12th have the option to rent a district device or use a device they own?

A6: As students get closer to leaving the district, it is important that they become comfortable with the device they will use after high school. For this reason, we afford our students an opportunity to use their own devices in a classroom setting if they so choose.

Q7: Will students be able to take home the iPads?

A7: In order to take home the iPads, you must sign up for the 709 iPad Protection Plan.

Q8: What is the advantage to taking home the iPads?

A8: The number of resources available through the iPad are incredible including apps, files and email. Access is 24 /7 to all of these resources if a student takes the device home. It also makes the experience truly integrated into the educational process.

Q9: Will my student be penalized if I don't want them to take the iPad home?

A9: No assignment will be given without a comparable alternative being available for students who do not have access to the iPad at home. There may be some convenience to information and resource differences, but the expectations for the final product will be identical.

Q10: Can students access objectionable material online?

A10: District 709 is firmly committed to the protection of our students. District owned devices are set up with an internet filter both on and off campus. **Even with the filter, it is important that students are properly supervised.** Students should only use the devices in public spaces and not in the privacy of their bedrooms or other unsupervised locations.

Q11: Will we be required to purchase apps?

A11: Many apps the district uses are free. There are a few apps the district will require that do have a cost, but that cost will be covered by the district on district owned devices. For student owned devices at the high school, students will be given options for which app they must use.

Q12: What happens if the device breaks?

A12: As far as the expense, see the 709 iPad Protection Plan for details. Concerning assignments, the district will do its best to have some additional iPads available to be used while the broken iPad is fixed. In the event there aren't any available, assignments will be adjusted so students are not academically punished.

Q13: How are the district email accounts monitored?

A13: District 709 hosts the Exchange servers where all the student email address reside. Therefore, administration has access to all accounts. Email accounts used by 5th and 6th grade students are limited to only internal addresses (teachers and other students) and cannot send or receive emails to outside addresses. 7th -12th grade student email accounts do have access to send and receive emails from outside addresses. The district uses a spam filter to help control unwanted messages. However, it is possible some unwanted messages may make it through the filter, so students are instructed to report these immediately and delete the email.