



Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School
Embracing Leadership, Love, & Legacy

February 11, 2016

Dear Incoming Fifth and Sixth Grade Parents,

After working with our faculty and consultants from the Tech Team of the Archdiocese, I am excited to introduce our students to a new one to one Google Chrome program which we will begin to implement during the 2016-2017 school year with our fifth and sixth grade students. This program is designed to better equip our students as they move through the remaining years of elementary school and prepare for high school.

The choice of beginning in fifth grade was made with much thought and care. Our fifth graders are members of the upper floor and have been receiving weekly technology instruction from the beginning of their years at SKD. It is the belief of our faculty that students in grade five are ready for the responsibility of handling a personal technology device.

The incoming fifth and sixth graders next September will be expected to bring a Google Chrome Book with them to school for use, which you will need to purchase. Should this place a financial burden on a family, we will try to allow the child/ren the use of a school Google Chrome Book. However, the school device will not be able to leave the school. Realizing the financial burden placed on the parents, we have considered a number of options including which device would best serve the needs of our students. After studying available data, the decision was made to use the Google Chrome Books. Parents choose size/memory of the device. You can find weekly sales for Google Chrome Books as low as \$149.

All of our students have been instructed in the use of Google Classroom and Apps. Each child has an SKD Google account. The students will have daily use of the devices in their classes throughout the day and week. Note-taking will be done on the devices in addition to copybooks. Information will be gained by using

textbooks and the resources of the device. The flow of instruction will be seamless between the use of traditional resources and the use of technology.

We worry with you about the power of such devices in the hands of our children. However, I am convinced that these children, our “digital natives,” can and should be taught about the responsible use and consequences for irresponsible use of the power found in the use of technology.

Technology is and will continue to be embedded in the world in which our children live. As a school community, we are entrusted with the obligation of preparing the children for the world in which they will live. With this obligation and trust, we are partnering with you in teaching the appropriate use and consequences for inappropriate use.

As always, I thank you for your support and cooperation. Oftentimes change is a difficult process, however, we do firmly believe that our students will be better, stronger students as a result of this program. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me personally.

God’s blessings,

Ms. Laura Clark
Principal