



Technology

educate · empower · engage

Woodpile(x)

Know your x factor!

As a new high school student, you have a lot of work to do. We want to make sure you have the right tools for the job. So we are excited to let you know about Project Woodpile(x). Project Woodpile(x) is SCHS's continuation of our first official deployment of computer devices directly to students. The goal of the project remains to get a Samsung Chromebook onto your desk and into your backpack for the 2014-2015 school year and measure the impact.

We do not think the Chromebook by itself will make you smarter. We do however think it will give you easier access to your notes, your projects and your classmates. In addition, we know your teachers have tons of content they will be able to cover now that you have a device that is light and easy to carry, has a 7 hour battery life, fast boot times and glides through the web. We think you will get more out of the work you put in!



What is a chromebook?

It is a laptop built for the web. It is basically the Google Chrome web browser with all of the functionality of Google Apps cooked right in.



How do I get mine?

Attached to this document you will find the SCSD Equipment Lending form. Sign it with your parents and bring it back to the library.



What all can it do?

Google docs, the web, study island. The exciting part about the project is we expect to learn with you!



Can I take it home?

Absolutely. Just a gentle reminder that you are still to use and care for the device at home just as you would at school. See page 5 for suggestions.



What classes can I use it?

Your teachers will expect you to have the device ready to go everyday just like your textbook. Be prepared when they ask you to have it.

Technology

educate · empower · engage



Woodpile(x)

Know your x factor!

Last year we called the Chromebook project for AP students Project Woodpile (because in Sullivan County a woodpile means you have work to do). You might be asking: what's with the name change for the project from Woodpile to Woodpile(x)?

We think technology is a great tool that can help you get your work done more quickly (taking care of that woodpile) and can connect you to amazing resources on the web.

What really matters though is the person using the tool, and we thought the project name should reflect that. In math, functions look like $\sin(x)$ or $y(x)$ or $\tan(x)$. The x in woodpile(x) stands for that x factor that we each have that motivates us to learn every day.

Here are some motivational quotes to get you started:

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can." ~ Arthur Ashe

"Always do your best. What you plant now, you will harvest later." ~ Og Mandino

"What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals."
~ Henry David Thoreau

"I don't believe you have to be better than everybody else. I believe you have to be better than you ever thought you could be." ~ Ken Venturi

"With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts." ~ Eleanor Roosevelt

Woodpile(x)

Know your x factor!

Permission to add Gmail and Hangouts to your toolbag

Teachers and students right now don't always have an easy way to get in touch with one another. In today's world when you can video chat with your cousin in Germany and send a message to your friend in California with ease, we want to make it simple for you to let your teacher know you need help. Students participating in Woodpile(x) will test out Google Apps Gmail and Hangouts for students at SCSD to do just that.

In order to have Gmail and hangouts turned on, we want you to talk with your parents about online messaging and sign this form. As we get started, we will make it so that you can only communicate to other people from Sullivan County School District with your account, but we're also interested to know if your parents would be in favor of us allowing you to email or chat with anyone in the world using your google apps account (say a College advisor, a Nasa scientist, or your parent's work email for example).

I agree to allow my child to have Gmail and Hangouts enabled for their Sullivanschools.net Google Apps account. I understand that at this time my student will only be able to use the functionality of Gmail and Hangouts with other users in the Sullivan County School District. Additionally I have spoken with my child about the importance of using their school email and chat programs wisely and primarily for school-related purposes.

Student's Name

Parent's Name

Parent's Signature

Survey Question

Would you be interested in allowing your child to contact email addresses outside our sullivanschools.net domain?

☐ yes

☐ no



Woodpile(x)

Know your x factor!

Guidelines for Use and Care of the Chromebook in and out of School

- (1) Carry it in a bag/satchel/laptop case – Students in woodpile(x) are allowed and encouraged to use a separate bag from their backpack to carry their Chromebook to and from school. The school can provide a carrying case if you need.
- (2) Obey Gravity – Students should not place their Chromebook in places where it might fall from heights. Try to avoid placing it on top of a pile of clothes in your gym locker for example.
- (3) Be Honest – We want you to use your Chromebook and all of the great stuff available in Google Apps and on the web. In fact, we want you to use it so much that it will start to show wear and tear. This is a learning process for both of us, and we really need you to honestly report how any damage occurred to your device.
- (4) Repairs for Silliness are done at cost – As a pilot project, we are open to learning about honest wear and tear, but there is a line in the sand when it comes to maliciousness or sheer silliness (your Chromebook is not a good lunch tray). Repairs for damage due to maliciousness or silliness will be performed at cost. Prices may vary, but Chromebooks are much less expensive to repair than many other devices as well. For example, screen repairs on most laptops and tablets run to \$150-\$200 while a Chromebook is far lower at \$45.

Chromebooks held up well (functionally if not aesthetically) under a year of solid use by 11th and 12th graders last year. We're interested to see how they do in your hands! More importantly though we're excited to see the progress you can make over the next year.

The logo features the text "Woodpile(x)" in a white, serif font, centered within a red rectangular box with a cracked, stone-like texture. This box is flanked by two horizontal wooden logs, each with a vertical wooden post on top. Below the red box, a portion of a laptop screen is visible, showing a blurred image of a person's face.

Woodpile(x)

Know your x factor!

Suggestions for Parents on Device Management in the Home

We recognize that whether this is your child's first computer that's theirs or they've been testing out the latest operating systems since they could crawl to the keyboard, devices can have an impact on the living room. Here are a few suggestions we would make to help you and your student benefit from having their own device at home.

- (1) Discuss boundaries for the device (rooms and times it can be used) from the start. We suggest limiting the computers to public areas in the home and going lights out at a reasonable time. Additionally, recent research suggests that computer devices in bedrooms used late at night can be harmful to regular sleep. Chromebooks are not meant to make your student cranky, and we don't want either of you losing sleep over it
- (2) No screen time for you equals no Chromebook use for your student. Many schools that have had successful computer programs implement clear guidelines that when asked students must allow a teacher to view what's on their screen. We suggest you establish that guideline with your student in your home as well. Unless they are working on a super-secret government project, there's nothing they shouldn't be able to show you.
- (3) Have a single location where your student charges their Chromebook. We all know how frustrating it can be to lose your keys, especially when you need to hurry out of the house in the morning. You can avoid that same situation with your student by setting up a single charging station for the Chromebook.

We hope those three suggestions start you off on the right foot. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at technologydirector@sulcosd.k12.pa.us. Also if you have a great trick that's not listed above, please send it on to me and we can add it to our suggestions list.

Important Timeline of Events



Today 9/8
Meeting with Mr. Mabus
(take forms home and talk
to parents)

Monday, 9/15
You can check the
Chromebook out of the
library like any other
resource material. You
don't have to check it back
in until the end of the year

This Week 9/8-9/12
Return signed forms *to the library* before next Monday
to be sure you can pick up
your Chromebook as soon
as possible.

Monday 9/15
5:45-6:15 PM
Mr. Mabus will host a Q&A
session about Chromebooks
at the high school
auditorium for any parents
who would like to attend.