WALL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS



P.O. Box 1199 • 18th Avenue Wall, NJ 07719

October 28, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians of WTPS Intermediate and High School Students:

We are writing to inform you about important changes in our process regarding damaged or lost school-issued devices (Chromebooks). During the pandemic and in school years since, we were able to utilize special funding (*i.e. ESSER funds*) for student devices at no direct additional cost to you. As a result, families were not charged for damages to student-assigned Chromebooks during this period. This funding ended in September 2024.

With the absence of the above-mentioned *ESSER* funds coupled with an increasing number of damaged devices, it is necessary to reinstitute <u>Board Policy 7523</u>. Specifically, this means if your child's Chromebook is damaged or lost, there will be a fine. This fine will appear in the *Genesis* Parent Portal and *PaySchools Central*. These fines will go into effect after the Thanksgiving Weekend (December 2).

As offered in the past, we wish to inform you of the optional insurance program for your child's device for the 24-25 school year. An optional insurance fee will be available to all students in the *Genesis* Parent Portal (*Fees and Fines link*) who attend Wall Intermediate School and Wall High School. This optional insurance program is available now through Monday, November 25. <u>See below for details pertaining to this optional insurance program</u>.

Fine System

When a device is determined by our Technology Department to be physically damaged or lost:

- 1. A fine will be added to your child's account which will be visible on the *Genesis* Parent Portal and *Payschools Central*.
- 2. You will receive an email from the Technology Department notifying you of the fine and providing payment instructions.
- 3. Payments will be made online through *PaySchools Central*, the same portal used for student meal accounts.
- 4. Once paid, the fine will be marked as a "Paid Fee" on both *Genesis* and *PaySchools Central*.

Fine Schedule

- Broken or Cracked Screen: \$75
- Broken or Cracked Frame/Device Casing: \$40
- Broken Keyboard/Missing Keys: \$40
- Cosmetic or Other Damage: \$35
- Lost Device: \$343 (full replacement cost insurance does not apply)

Optional Chromebook Insurance

WTPS offers optional Chromebook insurance for all students in grades 6-12 at a cost of \$30 per year. Payment of an annual, non-refundable \$30 fee covers first-time <u>damage</u> (excluding lost

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devices) to the device or peripherals as defined in <u>Policy 7523</u>. After the initial damage, the parent or pupil may pay \$30, up to two additional times, to cover a repair fine as long as it is received before the subsequent damage.

An optional Chromebook insurance will be available for purchase for all students attending WIS and WHS in the Parent Portal of *Genesis* and *PaySchools Central* for the 24-25 school year. When the insurance has been utilized to cover a damaged device, you will be notified via email by the Technology Department and the insurance will be available for purchase again in the *Genesis* Parent Portal (*up to two additional purchases for the current school year*).

- Genesis Parent Portal for WTPS Parents
- Payschools Parent Portal (Same portal as electronic school lunch accounts)

Next Steps

- 1. Please discuss the importance of device care with your child.
- 2. Consider opting for the Chromebook insurance in an effort to limit potential costs.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Technology Department at chromebooks@wallpublicschools.org.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain our technology resources for all students.

Sincerely,

Mr. Chris Alworth
Director of Information & Technology Integration
Wall Township Public Schools

Mr. Kevin Davis Principal Wall High School

Mr. Eric Laughlin Principal Wall Intermediate School