



# Colleen & Gordie Howe Middle School



Principal: Mr. Dexter Horton

Vice Principal: Ms. Christine Abbot

**It's A Go for Devices!**

Office Staff: Mrs. Linda Watson

Mrs. Suzanne Bain

Dear Parents/Guardians of A Pod:

We are excited to introduce the **Bring Your Own Device** program to your child's Pod! After surveying families in this Pod we have learned that there is enough interest to proceed with the program. Due to a lack of available technology in the schools, this program provides students the opportunity, at the teacher's discretion and with parent support, to use personal laptop computers for learning in the classroom. We believe that the use of digital technologies to improve student learning is a key part in being an innovative school that prepares students for lifelong learning. Our next step is to complete the necessary consent form. As your child is just starting middle school, they will have their device for the rest of middle school and into high school!

### **We strongly recommend a Chromebook for the following reasons:**

- Inexpensive (typically \$300-\$400)
- Less than 10 second boot time eliminating wait times at the start of class
- Full school day battery life (8+ hours)
- Portable (typically 2.5 lbs, 0.7 inches thin, 11.6 inch display)
- Full-size integrated keyboard for rigorous academic content creation
- Updates occur regularly and quickly
- No antivirus required
- No software management issues
- Apps and bookmarks can be easily deployed
- Chromebooks emphasize the web as a learning platform

### **Where to purchase your device**

Parents and guardians are welcome to purchase their Chromebook from any supplier. The school district has arranged special pricing at Staples. See attached flyer for more information.

If students already have a device and wish participate in the program with this device, it **must** meet the following criteria:

- **Windows** or **Mac** laptop not more than 4 or 5 years old (Windows 10 operating system or newer; Mac OS X 10.13 operating system or newer).
- Screen size of 9 inches or greater
- Battery that can hold a charge for at least 3 hours
- Internet capability
- Working microphone and webcam
- Charging power cord

Please Note:

1. An expensive laptop (e.g., Microsoft Surface Pro or MacBook Air) is not required.
2. Purchased software is not required as the district will be using the Google Education Suite.