

## News Release

### **Dobbs Ferry Students Test Drive Chromebook Computers In District's New One-to-One Pilot Program**

**Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. November 14, 2013**—Dobbs Ferry students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade have been selected to participate in Dobbs Ferry School District's first deployment of student 1:1 technology. The pilot program, which kicked off earlier this month, allows students to use Chromebook computers full-time in school. Teachers have already begun to integrate the use of these devices into their classroom instruction where applicable. The District is also expanding the use of Chromebooks for students next week by allowing them to keep the computers 24/7.

According to the District's Director of Technology Terance Huyter, Chromebooks are personal laptops preloaded with browser-based Google Chrome OS as its operating system. It gives users the tool to connect to Google Apps for Education, which the District has been transitioning to over the last two years. The devices are designed to be used while connected to the Internet and support web-based apps, as opposed to applications that reside on the machine itself. Data is stored in "Google Drive," which is also accessed online.

In two separate informational meetings with Middle School parents this week and High School parents next week (**9<sup>th</sup> grade meeting is Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the Commons**), administrators and teachers are helping parents to understand both the benefits and parameters of this new initiative. Topics covered in the meetings include:

- Security issues and CIPA (Child Internet Protection Act)
- Instructional uses across content areas
- Expectations and AUP (Acceptable Use Policy)
- Student Perspectives
- Demonstration
- Chromebook Reference Guide

"Our goal this year is to positively impact instruction and improve student outcomes through the effective use of technology by students and teachers," said Dobbs Ferry Superintendent Dr. Lisa Brady. "We believe that student 1:1 technology will increase the robustness of our instructional program while increasing students' technology skills. We will be surveying students, teachers and parents throughout the school year so that we can collect data and feedback about this important work."

Computer-based testing and assessments as determined by the New York State Department of Education is increasingly becoming the "norm" in education. "Chromebooks are a cost-effective way of keeping current with the required technology, but most importantly they are a valuable resource and tool for learning," said Douglas Berry, Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the District. "Technology and the Common Core are basically one. The Common Core standards requires students to be able to use digital media and web-based tools to create presentations; calls

for English Language Arts students to use the Internet and technology to research, edit and publish writing in addition to learning to write for social media such as blogs and tweets; and asks that all students K-12 be able to employ 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology skills as an outcome of the College and Career Readiness standards. Among the 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills that Common Core supports is collaboration, which is a major benefit of the Google platform. The education technology community is also projecting that cloud-based application skills will become mandatory for students.”

“So far, the students are thrilled with the Chromebooks and the program,” said Middle School Principal Patrick Mussolini. “It makes it easy for the kids to collaborate in real-time. They can simultaneously comment on and review assignments with their classmates and teacher, write and edit papers in a group referring back to previous drafts and teachers can utilize online assessments. This technology helps us to facilitate engagement, improve learning outcomes and prepare students for the digital world.”

**For more information, please contact:**

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