Dear Parents and Guardians of PASD Students,

The PASD wireless network installed with the support of the community through the technology referendum is completed. **The students and staff are finding easiest access to GoogleDocs using District owned Chromebooks devices.** I am sure that some sort of technology device is on many of your children's wish lists. New products like the Chromebook, iPad Mini, the Microsoft Surface, various Android tablets like the Nexus and the Galaxy and the Kindle Fire, and color e-book readers along with laptops are adding a lot choices (and confusion) to the low-cost computing market. Powerful smartphones, both iPhones and Androids, are popular with many children and young adults but they are not suitable as a production device to work on a project that requires typing and editing in a classroom.

We thought it might be helpful if we outlined some specifications for devices you might buy Pardeeville Area School District students if you'd like them to use it to complete school work.

While we won't recommend specific models or types of devices, some devices with which we have had success as a district include Chromebooks, iPads, Android tablets (we recommend Android version 4.0 or above), and various laptops that can hold a charge longer than 4 hours.

I would encourage you to buy a piece of equipment that meets the following requirements if it is to be used for most school work. Your student's device should have:
- *wireless networking capability (wifi) *the district provides filtered wireless access in all buildings to students (we will not support the older B protocol)*
- *a virus protection program (if running a Windows **computer** operating system)*
- *a color screen*
- *an on screen touch or external keyboard or other means of entering text*
- *an audio out port and earbuds or headphones*
- *a minimum 4 hours of use from one battery charge*
- *a full functioning, recent web browser (Firefox, Chrome, Safari) that will allow it to access GoogleApps for Education tools and documents, the PowerSchool student portal, and the Destiny library catalog along with other e-resources the district provides.*

You may wish to consider getting a device that has
- *a camera that takes both still photos and video (having both front and rear cameras is the most versatile)*
- *a microphone*
- *the capacity to run graphing calculator software*

You might wish to bring the above list into the store to inquire of the salespeople that the devices you are considering meet the requirements.

When writing a paper, solving a math problem, researching a topic or collaborating with fellow students, technology can help your child do his or her school work and develop good technology skills along the way.

Please e-mail me if you have any questions.

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