

Technology at SLA-MS - Two New Policy Changes for the 2026-27 School Year

Now that the 2026/2027 school year is upon us, I want to inform you of all of our technology plans for the 2026-2027 school year. After much deliberation amongst the faculty, we are discontinuing personal computing at SLA-MS. Instead of students being issued a personal chromebook that they are responsible for from the first day of school until the last, chromebooks are available on carts at SLAMS. In each classroom, a set of 30 chromebooks will be available for use when the curriculum dictates their need.

Just under 100% of our allotment of chromebooks were broken or lost in previous school years. This does not mean every student broke or lost a chromebook. It does mean that for every child who kept their machine functional for the year, there were students who lost or broke multiple chromebooks. For comparison, in 2016, 5% of our machines were broken or lost. On top of broken or missing chromebooks, the number of students who do not regularly bring a charged chromebook and/or a charger to school has created an extremely unpredictable technology access in our classes.

Our faculty create the curriculum that students learn each day. Teachers have built in the assumption that students will have a functional, charged chromebook each day. In order for SLA-MS to continue to be an inquiry-driven, project-based, technology infused school, something had to change.

While it has been our policy that cell phones are not part of the academic environment, they persist in being a distraction and danger to our community. Students can not have cell phones, smart watches, or similarly connected devices in use during the school day. Between 8:15 and 3:20 cell phones and similar connected devices should be neither visible or audible. Families of students who have internet connected devices that monitor medical conditions will need a plan drafted with Nurse Lee.

This means families will have to stop texting, calling, and video conferencing with their students during the school day. Please contact your student's advisor if you have non-emergent information to share with your student and call the school at 215-400-8320 in the case of an emergency.

We appreciate your cooperation in implementing these policies and welcome feedback as the year progresses as to what is, or is not, working for you students.

Founding Principal
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Timothy M. Boyle