



**Whitman-Hanson
Regional School District**

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT



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To: Whitman-Hanson Regional School District Families and Staff
From: Superintendent Jeffrey Szymaniak
Date: September 3, 2021
Subject: *Message from the Superintendent*

Good Afternoon:

I hope the start of the new school year was exciting and fun for your child/children and family. In traveling around the District over the past few days, I've seen great engagement, laughter and a sense of relief that comes from seeing friends and teachers.

It seems like the One to One (1:1) Chromebook initiative has gotten off to a rather lumpy start due to lack of communication from the District leaving parents with questions. I'd like to provide families the back story on how this initiative became a reality.

This summer members of the School Committee and Leadership Team met frequently on three goals, or initiatives, that were discussed at the June 30, 2021 School Committee meeting. Initiative #1 The Early Childhood Education initiative is centered around 2021-22 SY tuition-free Full Day Kindergarten. Initiative #2 Drilling down into a well-rounded Related Arts program K-8. The third and final initiative is providing a Chromebook that they could take home, to each student. These initiatives were presented at the August 15 School Committee meeting and then voted approved on August 25. Due to some Federal Grants and State funding and current Chromebooks in the District we are able to implement and provide Chromebooks to our students in grades 3 through 12 that they can use at home or in school. The ability to provide these devices enables us to ensure equity to our student body in the event we need to close due to COVID or any other unforeseen circumstance.

The question of using your own device at home or bringing you own device to school has been raised. The district is allowing students to do so. The attached documents will provide detailed information to assist you in making an informed decision.

This is a positive move forward for the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District. I apologize if this rollout has caused anxiety and stress for families. That was not the intention.

Please see the attached letters from our Technology Department as well as an FAQ page that should answer many of your questions.

I hope you have an enjoyable and relaxing Labor Day weekend.

Thank you.

Jeff

Jeffrey Szymaniak
Superintendent of Schools