

## **TECHNOLOGY and CONNECTIVITY**

For the Roscoe Central School students to lead productive and successful lives upon graduation, they must understand and know how to use digital technologies. Knowledge of technology and technological skills are vital for full participation in 21st Century life, work, and citizenship. Sufficient access to computing devices and high-speed internet are essential for educational equity. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the inequitable access to technology and internet services in students' places of residence was a priority to be addressed. The closure of schools in the spring of 2020 and subsequent shift to remote learning only highlighted this urgent need. The period of remote learning due to school closures presented significant challenges, especially due to the digital divide, but also unprecedented opportunity for schools, students, and families to leverage technology to support instruction, learning, communication, and meaningful connections. The effective use of digital technology can assist educators in differentiating and personalizing learning; provide flexibility in scheduling and pace; and provide multiple entry points for students to engage in learning.

As schools plan for reopening, technology and connectivity must remain essential areas of focus. While the mandatory shift to remote learning in spring 2020 has highlighted the work that must be done to ensure all New York State students have equitable access to technology, it also revealed a significant capacity for innovation.

In June and July 2020, Roscoe Central School surveyed parents, students, and staff to provide feedback on their experiences during remote learning, and to assess the effectiveness of digital tools, platforms, and resources utilized. The school district has conducted surveys of student technology access at home. Faculty were provided with a technology survey as well. During the spring and summer of 2020, Roscoe Central School identified students and faculty needing access to devices during remote instruction. This data has been evaluated and reviewed and will inform professional development and instructional decisions as we embark reopening planning for the 2020-2021 academic year.

To ensure all students have access to devices and high speed internet access, Roscoe Central School will use the data from the surveys and include the survey in all new student intake processes. The survey will:

- Determine the level of access to computing devices and high speed internet to which students have access in their places of residence.
- Indicate "access" to a device in the home as well as if any other individual in the household needs "access."
- Indicate how students are connecting to the internet (e.g., through a prepaid cell phone with a limited data plan, free WIFI in community, or internet at home).

RCS has knowledge of the level of access to devices and high-speed internet for students and teachers in their places of residence. The district will address the need to provide devices and internet access to students and teachers who currently do not have access by implementing school wide protocols (ex: 1:1 Chromebook devices grades 5-12, 1:1 Chromebook devices on order for grades PreK-4), and then addressing needs on an individual basis if the school wide procedure did not already address the need.

RCS has web cameras on order for each classroom.. Currently, all students in grades 5-12 have a 1:1 Chromebook device assigned to them. RCS also has Chromebooks on order so that every student, PreK-12, can have a 1:1 Chromebook device. However, these items are

educators on designing effective remote/online learning experiences and best practices for instruction in remote/online settings.

Suggestions based on a survey of parents, students and faculty will be incorporated into updates of the reopening plan to provide multiple effective structures and supports to increase student engagement in online learning.

Roscoe Central School will ensure student data privacy and security will be maintained and will comply with Federal and State laws related to student technology use, including NY Education Law 2-d and Part 121 of the Commissioner's Regulations.