The Road to Digital Learning

Information for Hanover Families about Blended Learning & Chromebooks for Middle School Students

Music: https://www.bensound.com

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The Road to
Digital Learning

Information for Hanover Families about Blended Learning & Chromebooks for Middle School Students

Steve

Hello, thank you for joining us today. This presentation will provide you with information about the next phase in Hanover County's Digital Learning Initiative. We will do our best to deliver this information to you virtually realizing that there may be some glitches along the way since we are presenting from our own homes. We appreciate your patience and understanding. This session will be repeated again at 7pm and recorded for viewing later. A transcript of this presentation will also be made available. Let's meet our presenters.

Meet the Presenters

Dr. Steve Castle
Director of
Curriculum & Instruction

Chris Biagiarelli
ITRT | Digital Project
Manager

Stacie Taylor
ITRT
Stonewall Jackson Middle

Mara Lambert
ITRT
Liberty Middle

Hi I'm Dr. Steven Castle director of Curriculum and Instruction for Hanover County Public Schools.

Hi I'm Chris Biagiarelli. I'm an ITRT and Digital Project Manager for Hanover county Public Schools

(Introduce other people on the call)

Learning Intentions

- Digital Learning Initiative
- Blended Classrooms
- Devices at home

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs   Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb
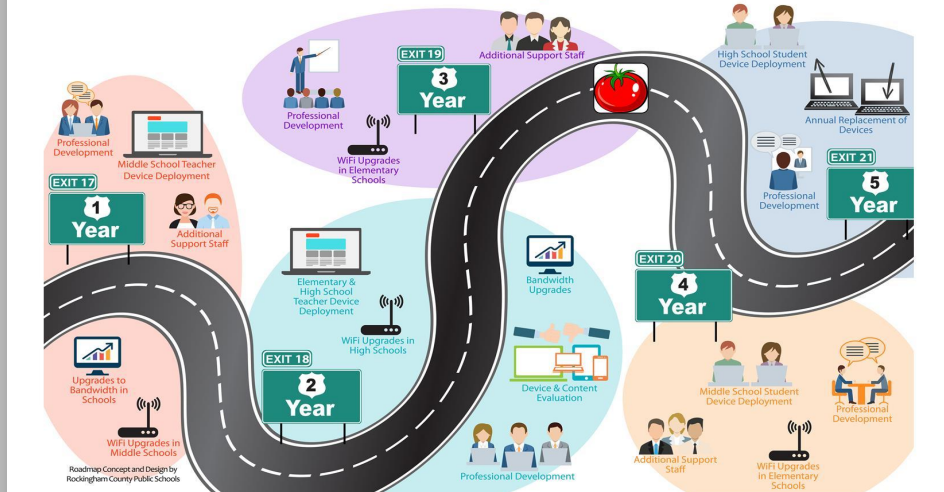
Steve
Let's take a look at our goals for time together..

- First we hope that families will gain an understanding of the Digital Learning Initiative and how it supports the Hanover Promise.
- We'd also like families to gain a better understanding of a blended learning classroom and how it benefits their student.
- Finally families will be given tips to gain a better understanding of how to manage their student having a device at home.

After each section of this presentation a link will be displayed to capture any questions that you might have. This link, along with a link to a digital handbook was shared with you in the email communication you received from your school. You will also see these links displayed at the bottom of all slides. Please submit your questions at any time during the presentation using the link provided. We will monitor the questions in the background and try to address common ones at points in the presentation. Every effort will be made to address the questions you have but not all questions may be answered during this presentation.

The Road to **Digital Learning** in Hanover County Public Schools

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs   Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

Steve

The road to digital learning started 3 years ago with providing laptops to our teachers in middle school and making improvements to our network. ITRTs also began providing professional development to teachers to introduce them to new tools at their fingertips. This effort continued in year 2 with our high school and elementary school teachers. At the beginning of this year, year 3, we put a pilot in place at Stonewall Jackson Middle School and took our first steps into blended learning where every student had a dedicated device. The 125 7th grade students and their teachers at SJMS did a phenomenal job this year and gave us valuable feedback that has informed our decisions and better prepared us for our next step...putting a Chromebook in the hands of every middle school student in the fall. While it's easy to focus on handing out 5,000 devices, that is not the focus of our efforts. Our focus is creating a blended learning environment for our students. The dedicated access to devices helps us accomplish that goal. Let's learn a little more about what blended learning is.

Blended Learning Instruction

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs
Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

Chris
Thank you Steve. Blended learning instruction is at the heart of the digital learning initiative. In the next few slides we are going to talk about what makes instruction blended and what that should look like in a classroom. While we have been focused on providing teachers with professional development about blended learning for several years, we know that it does take time for a change like this to be completely implemented. Some teachers will adopt and embrace all aspects of blended learning right away, others may take more time and need more assistance. Rest assured, we are all working towards the same goal of providing the most enriching educational environment we can to Hanover students.

Blended Learning

Hanover County Public Schools defines blended learning as **"a combination of online and face to face instruction that gives students some control over path, place, and pace."**

BLENDED LEARNING

HANOVER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs   Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

Chris

So what is "blended learning"? While there are many similar definitions out there, Hanover County decided to define blended learning as…"a combination of online and face to face instruction that gives students some control over path, place, and pace." Path meaning the activities they choose to do to reach the goal set by the teacher, place meaning where and when they work on those activities, and pace meaning they have control over managing the time it takes to complete those activities.The key word in all of that is "some" control not total control. The classroom teacher is still the instructional leader in the room and sets goals and dues dates, however research shows us that when students have some control of their learning they take more ownership and interest in it. It becomes something they are participating in rather than something that is being done to them and improves their likelihood of mastering the content and being successful. Let's watch a short video that helps illustrate this definition.

Blended Learning

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs   Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Keyp-I8ATA

Blended Learning

IS ✓   IS NOT ✗

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs   Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

Chris

So let's look at a short comparison of what blended learning "IS" and "IS NOT". The biggest misconception about blended learning is that it solely focused on using technology and devices for everything. That is not the environment we are trying to create. Remember that while we are providing devices to all middle school students next year, that is just one piece of the much larger picture of blended learning.

Blended Learning

Using devices to enhance learning when appropriate

Paperless classrooms with students on devices 100%

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs   Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

Chris

Is, Using devices to enhance learning when appropriate
Is not, Paperless classrooms with students on devices 100%

Blended Learning

✓ Using devices to provide choice and control of learning

✗ All students doing the same thing, at the same time, in the same way

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs   Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

Chris

Is, Using devices to provide choice and control of learning
Is not, All students doing the same thing, at the same time, in the same way

Blended Learning

Combination of effective traditional teaching with technology

Only teaching with technology

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs   Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

Chris

Is, Combination of effective traditional teaching with technology

Is not, Only teaching with technology

Blended Tools

G Suite for Education
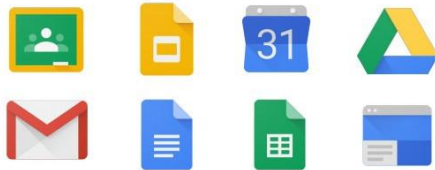
Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs   Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

Stacie

To support a blended learning environment, Hanover students have had access to a variety of tools for several years now. For example, GSuite for Education consists of applications from Google. The main tools students use include Docs (a word processor), Sheets (a spreadsheet app), Slides (a presentation tool), Drawings (a creation tool), and Drive (an unlimited storage space). This free set of tools helps students demonstrate their knowledge in a variety of ways as well as easily collaborate and communicate with their peers and teachers.

One of the great things about G Suite for Education is it provides a protected environment for students to work in that is different from personal Google accounts. The information and work that students store in G Suite account is not sold to 3rd parties nor is it used for marketing purposes. It does comply with COPPA, the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act as well as FERPA, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Schoology

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs   Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

Schoology is a widely used tool in Hanover and is the backbone to a blended learning classroom. This is our learning management system and is your students one-stop-shop for class announcements, materials, assignments, and class events. Access to Schoology and what's going on in a class becomes so easy now that all middle school students will have the same device. There will be no more straining to see assignments on smaller cell phone screens.

Schoology

Schoology also makes communication between students, parents, and teachers easy with the available mobile app. Parents can easily see what assignments are due, check student progress, message the teacher, and get insight into what their student is learning about in class on a day to day basis.

PowerSchool

While Schoology consists of the daily happenings in the classroom, PowerSchool, on the other hand, keeps track of grades and attendance. That's the most accurate place to check that. Just like Schoology though, parents can stay connected to up-to-date grades and attendance by accessing PowerSchool on any device.

Destiny Library Resources

eBooks

Gale Resources

Destiny Discover Library Catalog

Books On Hold
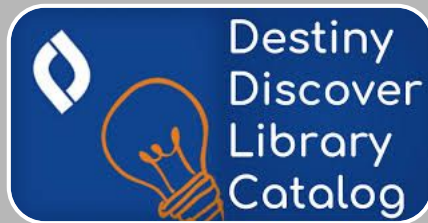
Cameron's Collection

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs   Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

Our libraries are the ultimate example of a blended learning environment. If you've stepped foot in one recently, you'll notice small group areas, flexible seating, independent work stations, places for collaboration as well as whole group presentations. They are also equipped with useful digital resources available both on and off campus such as being able to access and check out eBooks and place books on hold through the Destiny Catalog. In addition, students have access to Cameron's Collection which is a collection of resources focused on mental health as well as the GALE Resources that support student research.

Next Topic: Safety & Security

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs
Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

STACIE: Before we move on to our next topic, we want to take a moment to address any questions you may have submitted. Remember, you can access our question link by typing in bit.ly/chomebookqs at anytime. I'm going to pass it over to Steve and Chris to answer your questions. <<Pause to answer questions.>>

STEVE: (next slide)

www.iboss.com/education

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs   Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

Steve

Keeping students safe and secure is of the utmost importance in Hanover County and therefore, we have implemented several strategies to help protect your child. However, please remember that there is no substitute for parent monitoring. HCPS makes use of software that filters internet traffic to students and complies with CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act). This filter is active on all laptops, desktops, iPads, and Chromebooks issued by HCPS and anywhere a student is logged into the Chrome browser with their username. This filter will remain active on all Chromebooks at school and when connected to WiFi at home or in public places. It automatically restricts access to websites and material deemed inappropriate for the classroom environment such as restricted media, violence, profanity, and pornography. HCPS can add websites to the filter manually if it is discovered that they are not blocked automatically. For more information about the filter please visit www.iboss.com/education.

Chromebook Security

- Automatic Updates
- Sandboxing
- Verified Boot
- Data Encryption
- Built-in Virus Protection

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs   Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

Steve

The Chromebook is designed with many built in security features. Updates are quickly applied automatically at start up ensuring your student always has the most up-to-date secure software running. Chromebooks also use "sandboxing" which prevents malicious programs and viruses from affecting other programs and parts of the device. Even if malware "escapes the sandbox" Chromebooks utilize a "verified boot" and can repair themselves on start up if they detect something is wrong. Finally, Chromebooks encrypt all data stored on the device which prevents it falling into the wrong hands.

Digital Citizenship

Students will complete onboarding lessons in Schoology using curriculum from Google's "Be Internet Awesome."

Be Internet Awesome

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs   Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

Chris

At the beginning of the school year students will participate in onboarding modules that include digital citizenship lessons. Students need guidance on how to conduct themselves in an online working environment just like they need guidance on how to conduct themselves everyday in school. These lessons help give students the skills that they need to be successful working and interacting with others in an online environment,

Digital Citizenship

Lessons will be taught through Health and PE classes using curriculum from Common Sense Education.

common sense education

Chris

In addition to the digital citizenship lessons that students receive as part of their onboarding, students receive additional instruction throughout the year in their Health and PE classes. These lessons are provided by a trusted source, Common Sense Education. Common Sense is the nation's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of kids and families by providing the trustworthy information, education, and independent voice they need to thrive in the 21st century.

Next Topic: Tips for Families

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs
Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

Mara
Let's pause briefly to answer a few questions.

You can go to bit.ly/chromebookqs to submit them. <<Pause to answer questions.>>

Let's move on to our next section. As you help your child navigate the ins and outs of using their Chromebook for academic purposes, we'd like to share some family tips that have proven to be successful.

Family Tips
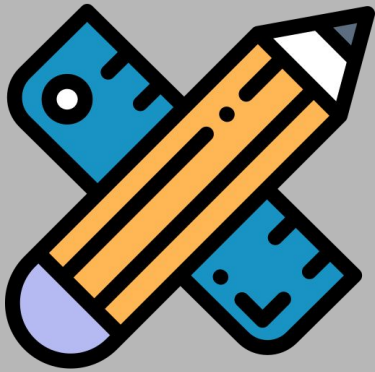
Only allow the Chromebook to be used for schoolwork.

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs   Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

Mara

Chromebooks are issued to students like a textbook would be. Encourage your children to use their Chromebooks for schoolwork and to use their personal devices for entertainment purposes.

Family Tips

Require supervised browsing.

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs   Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

Mara

As your child uses the device at home, instead of them using it in their bedroom with the door closed, consider having them in a room that allows you to supervise while they browse and work.

Family Tips
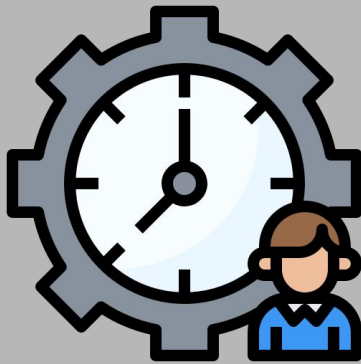
Institute a Chromebook curfew.

Mara

A great way to help your children manage the use of electronics is to institute a chromebook curfew. It is healthy to walk away from the screen and to let your brains disengage from digital media and from school work at a certain time. Keeping the chromebook in a common family area would also help the students disconnect and get a good night's sleep...away from the electronics.

Family Tips
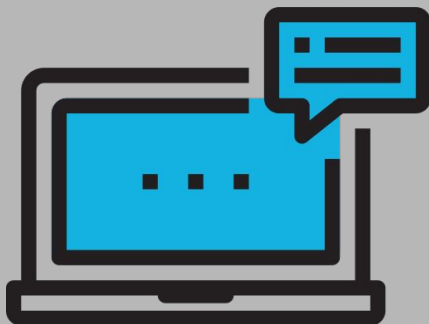
Initiate chats about your child's browsing history.

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs   Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

Mara

As you may have conversations about many different types of situations your children may encounter at school, it is a good idea to talk about your child's browsing history with them periodically. Not only will it help you to know what they might be learning, but it will help them to analyze how much time they may be on or off task with their work.

A gap in the browsing history doesn't mean that something bad happened and they just deleted their history, but that they may have been engaged in their classes in other ways. Discuss what you see and what you don't see.

Family Tips
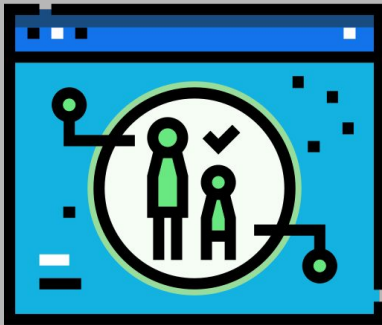
Investigate parental controls offered by your internet provider.

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs   Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

Mara

Many internet service providers have parental control options. We encourage you to reach out to your provider to see what options are available to you.

Family Tips

Check out the Digital Age Parenting Page on the HCPS website.

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs   Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

Mara
A great resource for digital age parenting materials can be found on our HCPS website, under Parents and Students - Digital Age Parenting

Solutions for Limited WiFi

- Teachers set realistic timelines
- Flex or Homeroom time
- Offline capabilities
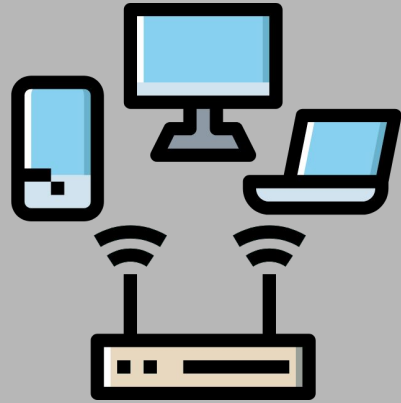
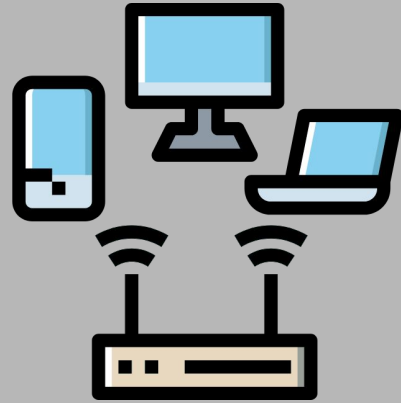Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs   Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

Chris

It's important to note that while Chromebooks are cloud-based, they do have offline capabilities. Many files such as docs and slides can be synced for offline access and editing, For assignments that cannot be accessed offline, teachers will be providing flexible timelines for completion and opportunities for students to use the school's WiFi before, during, and after school. Chromebooks can connect to any WiFi network or hotspot. The internet filter will remain active no matter what network it is connected to.

Solutions for Limited WiFi

- Corporate programs provide low cost Internet for qualified families
- Local library

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs   Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

Chris

We recognize that there are areas of our county that have limited or no internet access. We continue to work with our board of supervisors and local providers with this issue. Please remember that all of our local libraries and school buildings broadcast free Wifi signals.

Next Topic: Care Guidelines

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs
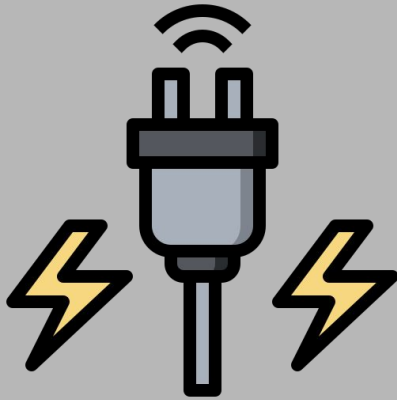Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

Chris
Let's take moment to see if we have any questions.

Stacie:
As we continue through our presentation, we'd like to share some general care guidelines that we hope you will help us with when your child receives and uses the device both at home and school.

Care Guidelines

Charge the Chromebook every night.

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs   Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

STACIE: Your chromebook is an essential school supply just like your binder, pencils and textbooks. Please ensure that you plug it in to charge each night so you are ready to learn the next day! Consider charging your Chromebook wherever you charge your own personal devices so you won't forget it the next morning.

Care Guidelines

Shut-down/restart the Chromebook daily to apply updates.

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs   Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

To make sure your chromebook receives necessary device updates and works as efficiently as possible, you'll want to shut down or restart your device on a regular basis.
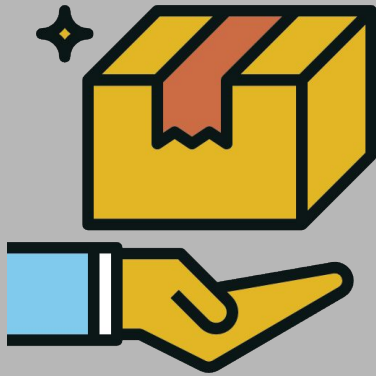
Keep food and drinks away from the Chromebook.

It goes without saying that you should keep your machines clean to maintain their healthiness and happiness. This will prevent having to visit the help desk unnecessarily and losing precious instructional time.

Care Guidelines

Use caution when putting the Chromebook in a bag with other heavy objects.

You may want to consider a padded sleeve in your backpacks for your chromebooks for transporting them back and forth to school. Additional pressure on the lid of the Chromebook can damage the screen. Also be aware that the charging cord can be damaged if dropped and it will keep your chromebook from charging.

Care Guidelines

Keep the protective case on the device at all times.

Your device will be issued with a protective plastic snap on case for the lid and you'll want to keep it on the device at all times. Students may personalize the snap on case with stickers but may not adhere anything else directly onto the device.

Care Guidelines

Use the Chromebook in a safe and responsible way.

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs   Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

Students should adhere to the student code of conduct and acceptable use policy when using their chromebook as well as any of your Hanover accounts. We want students to make smart decisions that will help them to be safe, respectful and responsible users.

Care Guidelines

Immediately tell a teacher or trusted adult if something is not right.

If you find that something is not working right on the device, please do not attempt to fix it yourself. Definitely tell your teacher and he or she will submit a help desk for you to get the issue resolved as quickly as possible. If the solution requires the device to be turned in for repairs for an extended period, the student will be issued a new device to prevent any loss of instruction.

Care Guidelines

Close the lid when walking away to lock it and protect accounts that are logged in.

Here's a cool tip. By default, when the lid of your chromebook closes it will automatically lock your account. This will protect your accounts and prevent others from accessing and using your account. The great thing about these chromebooks, logging back in takes mere seconds. Just remember, please do not share your password with others.

Additional Support

- HCPS Family Handbook
- HCPS website

DIGITAL LEARNING INITIATIVE

Hanover County Public Schools / **Departments** / **Instruction** / **Curriculum & Instruction** / Digital Learning Initiative

This fall, in order to support the district priorities of innovation, equity, and relevance, Hanover County Public Schools is moving forward with the implementation of their Digital Learning Initiative. The Digital Learning Initiative includes increased access to devices for students and embracing a blended learning classroom environment. Consistent access to a device will allow students more opportunities to communicate, collaborate, and create which are

Digital Learning Initiative

Vision Alignment

Digital Citizenship

Privacy and Safety

Blended Learning

FAQs

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs   Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

Chris
As we wrap up, we wanted to share some additional support that you have access to.

First, we encourage you to take a peek at our HCPS Family Handbook by visiting bit.ly/hcpsfhb.

Second, as we mentioned before, we have also provided information for families located on the Hanover County website where you can learn more about the Digital Learning Initiative, vision alignment, digital citizenship, privacy and safety, blended learning, as well as submit any additional questions that may come up after this webinar.
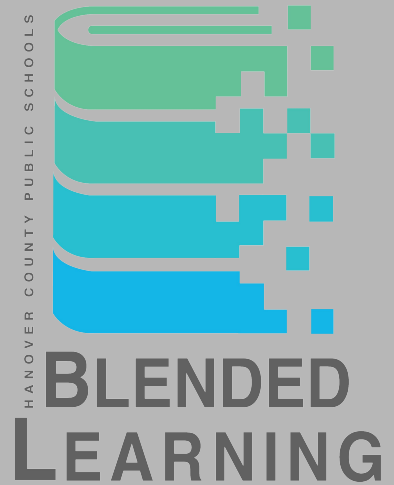
Final Thoughts

Questions: bit.ly/chromebookqs
Family Handbook: bit.ly/hcpsfhb

Steve: Address final questions.

Steve

Thank you for joining us today to learn more about the next phase in the Digital Learning Initiative. Middle school principals will be sharing more guidelines and expectations pertaining to their specific building at a later date. Until then, feel free to continue to submit your questions via the link provided on the previous slides and in the email communication from your school. Thank you for your continued support of Hanover County Public Schools.