The past 15 years has driven educators to meet the needs of a much broader, diverse group of learners than has been served in the past. As opportunities spread further in Indiana and across the country, school districts are improving the academic experience for the student by beginning to integrate blended learning into their school improvement process to help support the unique needs of each student. During the 2015-2016 school-year the Crown Point Schools will continue its growth and development of personalized learning in a blended environment to include approximately 7,000 students kindergarten through grade 11 with their own computer. The questions and answers below provide information for the upcoming school year.

1. **What is the purpose of blended learning in our schools?**
   In 2011 a CP 2.0 Advisory Committee established these guiding principles as a vision for blended and online learning in the corporation.
   - Prepare all students for college, careers, and life-long learning in ways that support the Crown Point Community School Corporation mission.
   - Respond to the needs of all students through personalized learning opportunities.
   - Use technology to enhance critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration, creativity and innovation.
   - Address student challenges, including skill deficiencies, retention, enrichment, and opportunities for accelerating student learning.
   - Promote student responsibility for his/her learning.
   - Expand course offerings to include more options for students.
   - Generate data that serves all stakeholder groups – teachers, students, parents, administrators, and community.
   - Create flexible scheduling opportunities for students and teachers by removing traditional barriers.

2. **What is blended learning?**
   Blended learning involves student learning at least in part at the school and at least in part through online delivery with some element of student control over time, place, path, and/or pace.
   - Gather, evaluate, and/or use information for learning;
   - Present material in differing formats, such as lecture, text, visuals, animation;
   - Conduct research, solves problems, create original works, manipulate digital artifacts, engage in simulations or games; and
   - Communicate and work collaboratively with other students and instructor(s).

3. **What is the purpose of moving to blended learning in our schools?**
   The rapid growth of blended learning in the past 15 years has been driven by educators seeking to meet the needs of a much broader, diverse group of learners than has been served in the past. As these opportunities spread further in Indiana and across the country, school districts are improving the academic experience for the student by beginning to integrate blended learning into their school improvement process to help support the unique needs of each student.
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   - Expand course offerings to include more options for students.
   - Generate data that serves all stakeholder groups – teachers, students, parents, administrators, and community.
   - Create flexible scheduling opportunities for students and teachers by removing traditional barriers.
4. **What is personalized learning?**
Personalizing learning is an intentional decision by teachers to help students become life-long learners by promoting the student attributes below.

- Student identifies, monitors, and adjusts their learning goals with guidance from teacher/adult.
- Student uses strategies and skills to support their learning goals.
- Student self-directs how they engage with content, access information, demonstrate or show what they know based on the learning goals.
- Student expands their learning environment to include the larger community, i.e. experts, teachers, peers.
- Student selects extended and experiential learning opportunities based on goals, interests, and aspirations.
- Student demonstrates mastery at their own pace.
- Student chooses and uses the appropriate tools to engage in learning, to express what they know, and support them on the learning path.

5. **What is the teacher’s role in blended learning?**
Teachers remain at the heart of instruction while Crown Point 2.0 will add technology to students’ education. Successful student outcomes derive from a quality classroom experience — regardless of whether that classroom is a school, online, or a combination of both.

6. **Will every student have a computer device?**
Yes – Every student will have their own computer device for use during and outside the school day.

7. **Will the school provide the computer device?**
Each school will rent a device student.

8. **How much is the annual cost for renting the Chromebook?**
The kindergarten and grade 1 device will include a touchscreen. Therefore, the cost will be more than grades 2 through 12. The regular device annual cost is $63.82 and the touchscreen device annual cost is $87.10.

9. **What are the specifications of the computer device students receive?**
Students will receive a device with the specifications below.

- Display size – 11.6”
- Battery life at least 6 hours
- Chrome operating system
- Dual band processing
- 2 USB ports
- Card reader
- Video out
- Camera
- Touchscreen (kindergarten and grade 1)

10. **What is the rationale for the change from a touchscreen in kindergarten and grade 1 to a non-touch in grade 2?**
The rationale for the transition from the touchscreen in K and 1 to a device without a touchscreen beginning in grade 2 was precipitated by the age, development, and expectations of students in the classroom. Beginning in grade 2 the keyboard becomes much more significant in accomplishing the learning goals and tasks and the touch screen less significant.

11. **Can a student bring their own device?**
Yes – A student can bring their own device that meets the specifications in question 9.

12. **What is the school preference, rent a Chromebook or bring your own device?**
The school preference is to rent a Chromebook.

13. **What is the rationale of the school renting Chromebooks?**
The rationale of renting the Chromebooks to users is in the use and management of the devices. We are able to provide a consistent user experience for the learner and teachers so that the device is not a barrier in the classroom. We can manage the devices by allowing or blocking apps and extensions, as well as force install apps and extensions for Chrome devices in our domain. We can create private collection of Chrome apps for our users in the Chrome Web Store, and choose which users in our domain to publish.

14. **What other accessories will a student need for their computer?**
A student will need a personal headset for use with the computer. A computer case is an optional accessory for each student.

15. **Can a parent purchase a touchscreen for their child in grade 2 or higher?**
Yes – If a parent is purchasing their own Chromebook for a child in grade 2 or higher, a touchscreen is acceptable.
16. Will the Chromebook fee be included in the textbook rental fee if a child brings their own device?
No – If a child brings their own device, the Chromebook fee will not be included in textbook rental.

17. Can I buy a Chromebook from the school?
No – Chromebooks are not available for purchase instead of renting.

18. Can my child bring an iPad?
IPads are not recommended since Adobe Flash player is necessary for complete functionality of learning programs. Apple does not support Adobe Flash player.

19. What web browser will work best for school?
The Chrome browser is the best for using the Buzz learning management system and Google applications.

20. Can applications and extensions be “pushed” to personally-owned devices?
Chrome extensions and applications can be “pushed” to personally-owned devices when they are signed into their CPCSC Gmail account.

21. Can standardized testing be administered on personally-owned devices?
It depends. If it is necessary to lock down the computer for test delivery, students may need to use a CPCSC device.

22. Will a student have the same device each school year?
• In Elementary School the device will be assigned to a student for grades K – 5 by the classroom teacher.
• In Middle School a student will be assigned the same device for the length of time attending.

23. What software applications will a student need on the computer?
The web-based learning management system (LMS) will host curriculum content, learning paths, assignments, gradebook, and digital resources. Print resources for lessons will be noted in the LMS and be used for instruction. Assessments can be accessed, submitted and monitored. Students will receive a GoogleApps account for email, word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, video, audio, voice, collaboration, and sharing applications.

24. What if a rented computer device is damaged or lost?
If a student’s device is damaged or lost, the student is responsible for the repair or replacement. A list of repair charges will be identified and provided at the school. While a device is being repaired or replaced, the student will be provided another device to continue the learning process.

25. How much will it cost to repair a Chromebook screen or replace an AC adapter?
To replace a screen the approximate cost is $41.00. To replace an AC adapter the approximate cost is $16.00.

26. What if a student forgets to bring the device to school?
It is the responsibility of the student to bring the computer device to school every day. If a student forgets to bring the device to school, the student will be provided a school-owned computer for use during the day.

27. Will my child be able to access outside internet sources while at school?
Only the Internet gateway provided by the school may be accessed while in the school. The Crown Point filtering and management systems include the following.
• Internet sites are filtered using a category-based system and customized lists.
• Webpages are analyzed for inappropriate content while loading.
• Inappropriate student activity is flagged.
• Real-time alerts occur when inappropriate content is accessed.
• Chromebooks can be tracked and recovered if lost or stolen.

28. How do students interact with other students and the teacher on the device?
Interaction in blended programs can be categorized into several ways described below:
• Activities that bring students together in a class or small groups at the school or school related events, such as virtual field trips.
• Interaction using the learning management system or GoogleApps with their teacher or students inside and outside their class or school.
• Internet tools for sharing, presenting, and building learning communities.
29. Will students receive instruction on safe computer usage?
Yes – Teachers will provide instruction and modeling of safe computer usage, as well as monitor students.

When using a computer, students should maintain neutral posture. Neutral body positioning is a comfortable working posture in which joints are naturally aligned. Working with the body in a neutral position reduces stress and strain on the muscles, tendons, and skeletal system and reduces the risk of developing a musculoskeletal disorder. The following are important considerations when attempting to maintain neutral body postures while working at the computer workstation:

a) Hands, wrists, and forearms are straight, in-line and roughly parallel to the floor.
b) Head is level or bent slightly forward, forward facing, and balanced. Generally it is in-line with the torso.
c) Shoulders are relaxed and upper arms hang normally at the side of the body.
d) Elbows stay in close to the body and are bent between 90 and 120 degrees.
e) Feet are fully supported by the floor or a footrest may be used if the desk height is not adjustable.
f) Knees are about the same height as the hips with the feet slightly forward.

Regardless of how good a student’s working posture is working in the same posture or sitting still for prolonged periods should be avoided. Students will be taught to change working position frequently in the following ways:

a) Stretch your fingers, hands, arms, and torso.
b) Stand up and walk around for a few minutes periodically.

Adapted from https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/computerworkstations/positions.html

To protect the eyes of students as they use their devices, teachers will support students and teach them how to reduce eyestrain.

a) The work are should not be too bright or too dim, the human eye has to work extra hard to compensate for these environmental factors.
b) Reduce glare that can be caused by sources of light such as windows, lamps, or overhead lighting. Glare can also be caused by too much contrast between the screen background and the displayed text. Adjust your monitor so that it is not reflecting the light source. Tilt the monitor down so that it doesn’t reflect overhead lights, or move it perpendicular to windows. Close shades or blinds if the computer cannot be moved. Move lamps so that they are not reflected directly in the monitor.
c) If a student wears glasses or contacts and frequently experience headaches while working at a computer, check with your eye doctor to make sure the prescription correct for the work.
d) If the monitor is too far away, you may have to strain to read the print. Likewise, if it is too close, you may also strain your eyes. If the monitor is too high, you will have to angle your neck to look up at it, which could cause your neck to be sore, and may contribute to headaches. Also, when you are continually looking up, you may not fully close your eyes when you blink, and this can cause your eyes to dry out.
e) When people concentrate, they blink less often. Sometimes they concentrate so hard that they blink only once per minute, instead of the normal once every five seconds. This, too, will cause the eyes to dry out and become irritated. Frequently look up from your monitor and focus on an object several feet away. Make a conscious effort to blink.
f) A buildup of dust on the screen can make it hard to distinguish characters. This may also contribute to glare and reflection problems.

Adapted from https://ehs.okstate.edu/modules/ergo/Eye.htm
**2015-2016 Textbook Rental and Supply Fees (TBR)**

This year a computer rental fee is embedded in the textbook rental and supply fee for kindergarten through grade 11. For the past two years, a computer rental fee was incorporated into the textbook rental and supply fee for 9th grade students at CPHS and last school the computer rental fee continued for 9th and 10th grade students. With the addition of the computer, the goal is for the increase in total TBR fee to be minimized and continued affordable to parents.

The TBR fees in 2015 will be comparable to the highest fee parents experienced during the past five years. During the last 2 years, TBR fees decreased as new materials and resources were not purchased in preparation for CP 2.0 implementation and the fees associated.

With the addition of a computer fee of $87.10 for kindergarten and grade 1 and $63.82 for grades 2 – 8 and when compared to past fees the largest increase will be seen in kindergarten. In 2012, the year before full-day kindergarten was implemented, the fee was $73.00. Although kindergarten was extended to full day, kindergarten classrooms added, the number of kindergarten teachers increased, and additional materials purchased, the kindergarten fee decreased to $60.00 in 2014. This year the fee is $172.00 and includes a touchscreen computer and new digital and print resources and materials. Compared to the highest fees in the past 5 years for grades 1st through 5th the average TBR fee for 2015-2016 increased 12% ($20.00) and for grades 6 – 8 the average TBR fee increased 9% ($17.00). The 2015-2016 elementary school fees are below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>$172.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>$199.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>$189.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>$196.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>$198.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>$199.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A $15.00 consumable materials fee will be added to this amount for elementary students participating in the High Ability Program.

Middle schools and Crown Point High School fees are determined by course selection.

Textbook rental and fees must be paid in full by September 24, 2015 for parents or guardians who are not eligible for assistance. As in the previous school year, all unpaid fees as of this date will be referred to a credit agency for collection unless a book rental payment agreement is on file and current. Collection fees, attorney fees, and court costs will be added to the book rental fees and will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian. Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover credit cards are accepted online through your RDS Parent/Student Access account. Parents of currently enrolled students who do not have an RDS Parent/Student Access account can email rdsparent@cps.k12.in.us and request an activation code to create their account. Applications for free or reduced-price meals and other benefits including textbook rental assistance are available in every school office and online through your RDS Parent/Student Access account.