

Technology and Connectivity

Challenge is committed to provide every scholar and staff member with the technology needed for the academic success of our school. As Challenge utilizes in-person, remote, and hybrid models during the 2020-21 school year, we are committed to providing scholars and teachers with access to a personal computing device and the assurance of access to high-speed internet at the Challenge four sites and in their places of residence.

Challenge has historically been a technology driven school. Each classroom is equipped with Smartboards to facilitate live in-person learning at all four Challenge sites. This technology will provide support for the remote learning transmission of live feeds to scholars that may be joining the in-person teaching remotely from their home.

In the 2020-2021 school year Challenge will provide all 936 scholars with a Chromebook and all 138 staff members with a laptop computer.

Challenge will require that every scholar use the school provided Chromebook for all remote learning sessions. This requirement will ensure student data privacy and security will be maintained and that the school continues in compliance with Federal and State laws related to student technology use, including NY Education Law 2-d and Part 121 of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Challenge is committed to assuring access to high-speed internet for all scholars to allow full participation in our remote/online learning program. Challenge will conduct updated technology surveys of all 2020-21 parents and guardians to determine what access each scholar has available in their home. Where no internet access and/or limited access is available to the scholar, Challenge will provide a hotspot and service in those homes that are not financially able to afford internet access.

Challenge will work with every teacher to assure that they have access to high-speed internet in their residence.

Challenge will provide professional development for leaders and educators on designing effective remote/online learning experiences and best practices for instruction in remote/online settings.

Challenge will provide instruction to scholars to build digital fluency especially incoming Kindergarten scholars and first time scholars enrolling in Challenge in grades 1-9.

Challenge provides a full time Technology Coordinator/Specialist at each of the four Challenge sites (K-4, 5th Grade, 6-8 and 9th Grade) to support teachers, scholars and families. Additionally, Challenge has contracted with Charter Technology Solutions to remotely support all Challenge staff--administrators, teachers, academic support staff, teaching assistants, etc.

Annually, Challenge evaluates the number of different tools that students will be expected to utilize after an assessment of the effectiveness of digital tools, platforms, and resources utilized during school closures in order to streamline the list.

Challenge will cover the following during the Professional Development Week and throughout the school year with the entire academic staff and the parent engagement staff:

- Find ways to provide both support and flexibility to scholars when designing remote/blended/online learning experiences.
- Discuss ways to work with colleagues, scholars, and families to identify multiple effective structures and supports (i.e. consistent methods of communication and times that communications are sent, predictable deadlines, and the provision of instruction in multiple modalities (recorded video, recorded audio, written translation). Special emphasis will be to discuss the difficult conditions some scholars and families face when dealing with open

deadlines, ambiguous expectations, and/or lack of direct support from a qualified educator. The focus will be on finding ways of supporting scholars as teachers and as a school in order to increase levels of engagement during remote learning.

- Additionally, training will be provided on how to provide flexibility to decrease stress and increase equitable access for scholars and families. The training will remind teachers that older students may be taking on responsibilities such as caregiving or working outside of the home and may not be available during traditional school hours. Elementary teachers will be reminded that caregivers of our younger students may not be in a position to effectively guide remote/online instruction during the school day.
- Teachers will be reminded that one area requiring flexibility is printing. Many scholars may not have access to a printer, especially if libraries are closed. Consider alternative learning activities that do not require scholars to print.

Current Programs Used to Support the Challenge Technology Program

Challenge provides multiple ways for students to participate in learning and demonstrate mastery of Learning Standards in remote and blended learning models, including - but not limited to - [Schoology](#), [PowerSchool SIS](#), [CareMonkey](#), [i-Ready](#), [Seesaw](#), and [G-Suite Apps for Education](#).

Technology Professional Development Resource

Teachers and staff also use [G-Suite Apps for Education](#) for collaboration and have access to self-paced learning via [OTIS for Educators](#), which is supported by state-certified teachers and offers professional development on the use and integration of various education technology programs.

Scholar Privacy Agreements

Challenge Charter Schools has secured privacy agreements with all of our digital vendors. Most privacy agreements are arranged via Google integration, and all software was acquired over an SSL encrypted browser. A full list of our vendors that we have privacy agreements with can be found on our website [here](#).

Challenge Grade Specific Technology Plans to Support Learning

Daily instruction at Challenge has always included blended learning opportunities and the consistent use of technology has been key to supporting students when employing remote learning. As all students will have a Chromebook through Challenge's 1-to-1 device management program, systems have been put in place to provide support to all staff and students during both remote and in-person learning.

Technology Plan Components to Support Learning	Hybrid Learning	Remote Learning
Scholars will connect to live remote learning sessions via Google Meet.		✓
For technology support, students can request support via a Google Form that is submitted to the technology team.	✓	✓
If online instruction becomes unavailable due to power outages or any other event, the student will be given a make-up period for work completion.	✓	✓
Teachers establish course content in a learning management tool such as Google classroom (Grades 2-9) or Seesaw (Grades K and 1). Students also use online resources to support their learning, conduct simulations, access text, build projects, and share their writing and performances.	✓	✓
Daily synchronistic time with the teacher as well as specific learning assignments, small group instruction and one-to-one conferring.	✓	✓
Students will use their assigned Chromebook device as their notebook for all classes. Students will use the provided grade-specific templates for note-taking. Upon transitioning back to 100% in-person learning, scholars will continue to complete assignments with a system that blends use of a traditional notebook and a chromebook.	✓	✓
The family engagement coordinator will continue to poll families regarding connectivity to wifi and will deliver devices to the homes of scholars who are physically unable to collect chromebooks prior to school opening.	✓	✓

Teaching and Learning

Continuity of Learning Plan

CPCS' will ensure continuity of learning for all students by expanding our 1:1 student to device program from grades 5-8 to grades K-9 and by employing a hybrid learning model where students who are learning remotely will log into live lessons occurring in Google Meet. Class and course content will continue to be aligned with NYS Learning Standards. We are exploring digital versus paper student (and teacher) curricula resources to allow for Chromebooks to become student notebooks. Scholars (and families) will receive explicit instruction in technology as all work will be submitted digitally- regardless of learning environment- remote or in-person. Scholars and families will be able to submit help desk tickets for technology support. These tickets will be addressed by site