March 2017

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Jackson Local Schools are excited to announce the implementation of Blended Learning and our one-to-one Chromebook initiative starting with the 2017/2018 school year. Blended Learning is an instructional method which combines traditional instructional methods and an online component. Utilizing a blended learning approach to education will increase student engagement, provide more opportunities for small group/individual instruction, improve critical thinking/problem solving skills, and allow for individualized student pacing.

To accomplish the goal of blended learning, Jackson Local Schools will move to a one-to-one program with Chromebooks. The implementation for one-to-one will begin in the fall of 2017 in grades 5, 6, 8 and 9 with the other grades to follow in the fall and spring of the 2018-2019 school year.

One-to-one refers to each student having his or her own personal device such as a Chromebook. For the past year the Jackson Local Schools has been researching blended learning instructional models and is prepared to utilize these devices on a daily basis. We are aware that every student having their own device may cause some pause or anxiety with our parents. As a school district, we are committed to providing the best possible education for our students.

Polaris is Jackson’s online classroom environment. This is a secure learning network for teachers, students, parents, and schools hosted by Schoology. It provides a safe way for us to connect, share content, access homework, participate in discussions and receive class information. Polaris is accessible online and through any mobile device with Internet capabilities – including free apps for iPhones (IOS), Chromebooks and Android devices.

Polaris is monitored by the teacher, and students gain access to course information through secured access codes. Once students join a course, they can participate in online classroom activities that will enhance the learning experience and help students develop important online skills.

In August, you will receive more information regarding a timeline for when your child will receive his or her device, insurance options, and parent information meetings. You and your child will also receive a handbook which details proper use, expectations and care of their device.

If you have questions, please visit our district webpage at http://www.jackson.k12.oh.us/ and click the “Parents” tab and choose “Polaris One to One Initiative”.

Professionally,

Christopher DiLoreto, Superintendent