***Tech Updates 3.19.2020***

Based on feedback from families and teachers, we have made some adjustments to our tech compatibility and functions that we would like to outline for you here.

***You Tube***

We have you tube restricted within our building for students. Teachers have had access to the site and have been able to utilize the site within their classrooms. Since we are now working remotely from home, we will be lifting the restriction on you tube access for the student chromebooks. Teachers will be sending content and age appropriate videos to the students to supplement the learning. While we use a strong filter to restrict inappropriate content at ICS, those safe guards will not be in place. As a result, we are asking for your cooperation in reviewing the content that students will have access to.

***Gmail***

Students in the 7th and 8th grade will have access to their emails. While we can monitor and oversee appropriate use of their correspondence, we can’t stop them from still using the service in ways that it wasn’t designed. In opening the email account, we ask that communication only be made to the teacher and parent via email. Students encouraged to not send emails to one another. Further, opening the email will unlock a chat feature, we strongly discouraged the use of this.

***Zoom***

We have utilized Zoom as a teleconferencing web app to facilitate face to face learning for our classes. Based on feedback from the staff we ask that the following guidelines be considered;

* Please use the program at a workstation. Whether you have a desk to work at or the kitchen or dining room table. We have found that students using in their bedrooms have been spending rec time, jumping on their beds during lessons. We are looking to reinforce that this time is class time and students should meet the same behavioral expectations. That they would in class.
* Behavioral expectations on the app are to be followed as exactly how it is in the classroom. That includes talking out of turn, following directions, using the chat appropriately, and conducting themselves appropriately.

We ask that you please keep in mind that when you use the Chromebook, our Go Guardian monitoring software is still active. If students use the Chromebooks in a way that it wasn’t intended, our software will flag some of the use and we may contact you to follow up on it. Please reinforce appropriate use suggestions with your child. We have attached our [Tech Acceptable Use Policy](https://2f57de55-e083-42a2-9138-2eaf445e47b0.filesusr.com/ugd/037037_c02639ea7c9f436e94f755b946a66f67.pdf) to this document to refer to. The document can also be found on our website <https://www.icsschool.org/forms-information>.

We understand there will be a novelty and newness to this experience and students may try to utilize these programs in ways that better serve their recreational or fun purposes. We ask for your support in working with the students in using these programs the proper way.

As always we appreciate your cooperation with all things during this time. Please reach out to me or Mrs. Nagalkar if you have any questions. Thank you.

With Peace,

Jeff Martinelli