

D5 FAQs for Parents



DIGITAL 5:
pathways to personalized learning

Q What is the Digital 5: Pathways to Personalized Learning (D5) initiative all about?

A D5 is a new District initiative that is utilizing a fresh approach to learning by putting digital devices into the hands of nearly 3,200 fifth-grade students from 27 elementary schools across the District.

The major goal of the Digital 5 Project is to enable students to use digital devices and digital curriculum content for learning in the same ways as devices and content are used in the work place. Students will be communicating, collaborating, researching, and presenting their learning to their classmates and teachers.

Q What kind of digital device (laptop) will my child be using?

A Students will be using a Lenovo ThinkPad 2 laptop, running Windows 7 system software.

Q Can my child access the digital content on a home computer or other personal digital device?

A Yes. We will be using a variety of resources that are web accessible.

Q Will the laptop go home with my child?

A Yes, eventually students will bring their laptops home. However at the start of the school year, we aim to create a comfort level among students, families and teachers about expectations for using the devices. Your child's teacher will provide you with information and details about when devices can be brought home.

Q How will my child complete homework during the period of time laptops are not being brought home?

A During the first few weeks of school, when students will not be bringing their laptops home, they will use hardcopy print materials to complete assignments.

Q If I do not have access to the Internet at home, how will my child utilize resources or complete assignments once the laptop is allowed to go home?

A Each student's laptop is equipped with the KNO application. This application is downloaded onto the student's laptop and can be accessed without the use of the Internet. This provides each child access to the materials needed for class assignments.

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Q How do I report damage or loss of the device?

A Please contact your child's teacher immediately. Each case will be handled on an individual basis.

Q What will my son or daughter be doing that's different than other classes?

A Your child will have the opportunity to personalize their learning environment by having access to digital resources and learning tools. This initiative encourages students to control the pace, place and path of their instruction by incorporating real-world techniques for gathering web-based research and data into their classroom experience. While the manner of instruction will use digital resources and learning tools, the standards and curriculum is based on state requirements for all fifth grade classes.

Q How can I assist my child?

A The best way you can assist your child is to make sure they attend class everyday.

You can help your child by: encouraging him/her to complete assignments with diligence and on time, assisting him/her in "diving deeper" into topics of interest, reviewing content that may be challenging for your child, providing a work space for your child at home, and helping your child take unprecedented care of the laptop, once it comes home.

Beyond that, help your child succeed by keeping the lines of communication open between you, your child and their teacher. Get involved in your child's school as a volunteer or mentor, and take advantage of the online access to your child's lessons.

Q How will technical support be provided?

A Each class has an identified technology support person who will help students when issues arise with their laptops.

Q Who do I contact for more information?

A Your child's teacher is the first point of contact for the D5 initiative. If you have questions or comments please contact them first and they will connect you with the appropriate person or resource.

Q Where can I learn more about D5?

A Please visit our website: <http://www.browardschools.com/digital5>