Chromebook FAQ

What is a Chromebook?

A Chromebook is a different type of laptop. It runs a web browser (Google Chrome) and nothing else. Because you need to be connected to the internet to use one, Chromebooks will only work where there is a wireless connection. You should find that it starts up more quickly than a PC or laptop because it does not run many processes. Most anything you can do via the internet you can do on a Chromebook.

Is it compatible with Southeast’s wireless network?

Yes. Chromebooks will connect to Southeast’s wireless.

What can I use it for?

The Chromebook is ideal for email, web searches, accessing the MySoutheast Portal, searching library databases - in fact, pretty much anything that is internet-based (that doesn’t require Java - or Silverlight).

Can I run or install other applications – such as Microsoft Office?

Chromebooks use web apps and websites, so you can’t install traditional software on them. However it will run Google’s own applications for word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, and email. These applications will open and save files in Office format (however there may be some formatting features available within Office that are not compatible).

What about online classes at Southeast?

While Moodle is supposed to be browser independent, some features in Moodle work better in some browsers than in others. People seem to get more consistent results using either Internet Explorer or Firefox. Chromebooks are locked down in such a way that other browsers, such as Firefox, cannot be used. While Chrome will work for most functions within Moodle, there are some 3rd party applications that work in conjunction with Moodle, that to do not support Chrome (or at least as well) at this time.

I noticed it isn’t listed in your website’s computer recommendations. Why?

As mentioned, while a Chromebook will work fine for email, Portal, and web surfing there are considerations when using it for document creation/management and online classes. Due to these limitations, we cannot recommend it overall for use on campus.