Digital Classroom Information

1) What is a Digital Classroom?

A Digital Classroom is one in which students have access to, and are expected to utilize, iPads, tablets, or laptops (cell phones are not considered a digital device for the classroom) as a means of communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creating course work. Almost every aspect of our course will utilize and require technology usage. The Digital Classroom is part of GCISD's strategic plan, LEAD 2021 (http://www.gcisd-k12.org/Page/25284).

2) What are Problem/Project Based Learning (PBL) and 21st Century Skills?

In our digital classroom, we will be utilizing PBL, as well as other strategies, in order to teach content and reinforce the 21st Century Skills every students needs. "In Project Based Learning (PBL), students go through an extended process of inquiry in response to a complex question, problem, or challenge. Rigorous projects help students learn key academic content and practice 21st Century Skills (such as collaboration, communication & critical thinking)" (http://www.bie.org/). I encourage you to visit the Buck Institute at the previously noted website for more information.

3) Will my child need access to technology at home?

While your child may have access to technology at school (I will have a class set of Chromebooks), all GCISD technology will remain in the classroom for classroom use. We also have computer labs available for student use. While there will be homework assigned, students who do not have access to technology at home can utilize one of the computer labs to complete assignments during stretch or after school. Students are also welcome to come to my room before school to work on course assignments. For students without Internet access, a flashdrive or printed notes will be provided upon request.

4) Digital Acceptable Use Policy

School Responsibility

 As per GCISD policies, Internet safety education is included as part of introducing new technology tools. Teacher supervision, school filters, and spot-checking student accounts will be used to ensure the student's use of digital tools follows school/district policies and good on-line etiquette.

Student and Parent Responsibility

Students agree to use digital tools for school related purposes and agree to follow GCISD acceptable use policies as outline in the Student Handbook and/or digital acceptable use policies issued by digital classroom teachers (http://www.gcisd-k12.org/cms/lib4/TX01000829/Centricity/Domain/41/GCISD_SCC_13_14.pdf). Students also agree to follow parent/guardian guidelines for use of digital tools in and out of school. Parents agree to monitor Internet use outside of school and ensure their student follows the GCISD acceptable use policies outlined in the Student Handbook. Students and parents must maintain their own usernames and passwords. The school and/or teacher will not maintain a list of usernames and passwords.