

## **Merit Preparatory Academy Access to Technology Plan**

### **Learning Management System**

Merit Academy will utilize Canvas as our primary Learning Management System(LMS) for all courses. Students will automatically be enrolled and will be able to access their courses, assignments and grades through their Merit Academy email address. Students and parents will be able to track their progress, communicate with their teachers, and complete assignments.

All students who choose the Merit distance program or blended program will have full access to course content and assignments, and they will be able to complete their coursework entirely from home if they so choose.

### **Student access to technology**

Students that demonstrate a legitimate need for access to technology will be able to check out a Chromebook from Merit Academy at no cost to them. Students will use the Chromebook to complete coursework only. Students that check out a Chromebook will sign an agreement to maintain and care for their Chromebook. The student/parent will be responsible for the care of the device that they checkout until it is returned at the end of the course or school year.

### **Students without internet access**

Students unable to access the internet from home will be provided reasonable alternative assignments in writing that they can pick up from the school, complete, and return to the school.

### **Students with disabilities**

Special Education and IEP services will be provided to distance education and blended students virtually as needed. Merit will use online platforms to communicate with students and parents and ensure that students are receiving all typical Special Education services that they

would receive at the school. Speech and language therapy will continue to take place via remote video sessions. School counseling and psychology services will also be offered online.

### **Teacher access to technology**

All Merit teachers are provided with a computer to work from home or the school and access Canvas. Teachers will be provided additional equipment for online instruction as necessary. This may include cameras, microphones, software and other educational technology to provide equitable access to all distance or blended learning students.

### **School Resources**

Merit Preparatory Academy will provide Chromebooks currently owned by the school to provide students with access to technology as needed. We will also use funds received from the CARES Act to purchase additional devices and technology for students and teachers as necessary.

Revised: 6/29/20