



## **HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMICS**

**Faith Rosetta  
High School Principal**

1501 Cerrillos Road Post Office Box 5340 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502 Office: 505-989-6330, Ext 6315 Fax: 989-6316

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Dear SFIS Students and Families,

As you know, technology plays an increasing role in our lives both in and outside of the classroom. At SFIS, we are fortunate to have access to computers, laptops, and now devices to assist in the learning process. Currently, all SFIS students and faculty have SFIS Google accounts. Classes are more frequently using Google Docs and Google Classroom where students and teachers can communicate, collaborate on group work, and assign and submit homework digitally. While we know direct teacher instruction and hands-on learning are essential for a rich learning experience, technology continues to play a critical support role. For this reason, we are excited to begin a 1:1 Mobile Device initiative wherein each student will have access to a tablet for use in the classroom, in the dorms, or at home. This is in conjunction with a complete upgrade of the school wireless network and a five-fold increase in SFIS broadband Internet connectivity, all occurring this spring semester. The SFIS Board of Trustees has generously supported these upgrades this school year and we intend to make the most out of the opportunity.

This spring semester, the first set of Chromebooks will be given to the seniors. There is no fee but students will be responsible to return the device and cables at the end of the year, similar to the library check-out process. Internet security, including firewall and remote management, will be installed and in use on the SFIS provided machine. We understand that some parents might prefer to provide their student with a personal device and decline the school device, which is decision that we respect. We will have basic filtering for personal devices that connect over the SFIS wireless network but off-campus Internet security would need to be managed by the family. Please also note that as Google Classroom is a requirement for students to submit homework, all students will be expected to meet deadlines and check their sfisonline e-mail. We expect that all students in all grades will receive mobile devices in the next 2-3 years as we transition and learn from the pilot this year. Additionally, we understand that not all students have home Internet access and we are trying to work around the spotty connectivity.

We are excited about this new opportunity at SFIS but realize the change will be a learning process. Please reach out to me directly to share your concerns and insights as we take this next step to integrate technology into our school.

Sincerely,

Faith Rosetta, High School Principal