



May 19, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Banting Middle School is a BYOD school. Even before COVID-19 and remote learning we recognized that increasingly there are daily lessons in the classroom where students can collaborate safely with their classmates through Office 365 tools such as OneNote and other shared digital documents. We invite families to send a device to school each day to be used in learning activities and only for that purpose.

Use of any devices for learning will be under the direct supervision and discretion of the teacher. Further to that, students must connect to our school network via our Wi-Fi. Any use of personal data to access on-line content is strictly prohibited.

Device Suggestions

We strongly encourage parents and students to take time to research and sample the different devices that are available. We have learned that a student device becomes very personalized, and that their learning and willingness to use technology increases when they feel comfortable with their device. Devices need not be new; there are many avenues to access and purchase gently used laptops.

A laptop is our recommended device. A keyboard is very effective when writing and producing documents. Devices with USB ports are valuable for data transfer and printing, however, this is less important now that SD#43 is operating out of the Cloud with Office 365. A light, small computer fits best on the student desk, and fits easily in student lockers. Please note that we have found many of our students have run into difficulties using Chrome Books. Please review the device recommendations below.

Device Recommendations:

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| • Keyboard | • Protective case |
| • Minimum 10" screen | • A camera for stills and video |
| • SSD Hard Drive storage 128GB or higher | • 8GB RAM memory or higher |
| • Microphone & speakers | |
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| • <i>Optional: Stylus</i> | • <i>Optional: An extra charge cord – one stays plugged in at home, one for the student's backpack</i> |
| • <i>Optional: Touchscreen / ability to annotate (i.e. Math)</i> | |

* You do **not** need to purchase Microsoft Office (see below)

Use of school device

For families who are unable to provide their child with a device, we do have some devices available and would like to provide the opportunity for your child to sign-out a laptop to use on an ongoing basis. Further information will be provided in September.

Recommended Apps, Websites & Programs

At the middle school level, there are very few required apps/programs on student devices. Generally, a student will need:

- word processing capability (such as Microsoft Word or Apple Pages), and
- access to the internet (multiple browsers are recommended, such as Chrome, Internet Explorer, Safari, Firefox, Microsoft Edge).

Please note that **Office 365 is provided to each SD43 student FREE of charge**. It is a web-based (internet-dependent) suite of tools that includes Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, Sway, and more. This free account enables a FREE installation of the Microsoft Office suite on your device.

Teachers will not ask students to download apps or programs without parental permission. Some examples of apps/websites/programs that have been used in classrooms successfully include Adobe Reader, Kahoot, Quizlet, Prezi, Notability, Deck, Educreations, Explain Everything, iMovie, Padlet, and WeVideo.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to one of us.

Thank-you,

Bill Trask, Principal
Shannon Bain, Vice Principal