

Parent Information for Grade 9 Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Program

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New technology

- Technology plays an important role in our lives today
- Microsoft in Vancouver – We can get access to tools and give feedback to engineers
- Teachers can help design products that work well in the classroom during educational tool development
- Garage, Microsoft Vancouver, student can see the development of new technology
- Subtitle tool in PowerPoint – example of the power of what is coming – instruct class and fill gaps for students who many not speak/read English. The ability to use subtitled power points will remove barriers; teacher can set up subtitles for only the one or two students so that they are seen only on their computer.

Technology in the classroom

- Enrich educational experience and we become better educators
- 17 schools in the district are BYOD
- District works with schools and teachers to make sure they have the tools to work with technology in the classroom
- We need families, schools, and teachers to all be on board together
- This is not an experiment; this is a very powerful venture with solid templates to help schools progress
- Looking to the future all middle and secondary school's BYOD (8/14 Middles, 7/8 Secondary schools) – explicit District strategy
- Core Values – not about the technology, it is about the learning – Support from the district's Directions 2020 document
- District investments – bandwidth and wireless infrastructure – every single school in the district has been upgraded
- Support for teachers – significant district resources to invest in teachers
- Questions are more important than answers to make the world better, we want students to fall in love with problem solving
- Encourage exploration, experimentation to develop answers – questioning and critical thinking
- Depth of exploration is far greater using technology, we need to give students the access to explore and question whenever they need to
- Students do not need to do all their school work on the technology, it is used as a support tool, if there is barrier or question you can pull out the technology to immediately find answers or support for questions
- Richer learning through...
 - always available access
 - Focus on creation
 - Drive for deeper inquiry
 - Writing for knowledge
- When kids write with technology, see the most improvement with students and their learning – the revising process digitally is very different from writing, the physical writing causes students to write less, cutting & pasting with technology allows students to focus on the content and organize thoughts

Outcomes – In Search of...

- Personalized learning
- Overcoming learning barriers
- Developing Social Responsibility
 - We spend 13 years teaching students to be productive citizens. In Kindergarten we start to teach basics of how to interact, they make mistakes when socializing (push, punch) adult observes, corrects action and lets them interact, the pattern of having adult interact with child repeatedly, they learn over a long period of time how to interact with one another.
- Blurring the line between living and learning
 - We want students to practice the same good habits they learn in school when they leave the building, develop lifelong learning skills
 - Give students skill sets to learn good habits - build good habits with respect to use of technology, take those schools of digital citizenship to the work place and into the future

Concerns to be addressed.....

- Personal responsibility
- Digital citizenship and online safety
- Screen time

Bringing devices to school does not necessarily mean that students have more screen time. Technology is used when necessary not all the time. Teachers plan for screen time in the classroom, it will be balanced

Our Commitment....

- **Will provide access if you cannot - If you cannot afford, district will provide one, BUT we need commitment with most of families bringing in devices**
- **Develop responsibility**
- **We are ready to work with your child**
- **District is supporting teachers with learning support**
- **Access to resources**
- **Access to tools – Office365 accounts for all students – licensing cover installing full version of office on 15 computers in your home**

What Should I purchase?

Brand of computer does not matter – can choose Mac or PC

- needs to be min 10' screen (iPad size or bigger)
- needs to have a keyboard – most schools ask for laptop in lieu of ipad or tablet
- If you have something at home already it is already good enough - \$350 devices are fine
- No optical drives (disc drives) - CD drives better externally
- touch screens are wonderful but not necessary –
- lighter weight processor
- hard drive size, 64GB minimum recommended

District education for Parents - PAC education sessions throughout the year can be set up and the school district website also has resources for parents

<https://www.sd43.bc.ca/Resources/DigitalCitizenship/Pages/default.aspx>