Frequently Asked Technology Questions for Parents of Incoming Grade 9 Students

Technology Questions

Q: If I cannot afford a to purchase a device, what do I do?

A: Our experience with BYOD in the district is that 90% of our students will arrive with a device. If a family has explored purchasing and financing options, but are unable to obtain a device, they should contact Gleneagle and speak with their child's counsellor or administrator. Gleneagle will lend a device to any individual where finances may be a challenge. Since the school will own these devices, students will be responsible for returning them at the end of the school year and will be responsible for any loss or damage to the device.

Q: If my child has a laptop already, do I need to also get them a tablet?

A: No. Although tablet is useful for writing and apps, and some activities may benefit from a touch screen or stylus, a touchscreen or stylus is not mandatory for the device. Laptops are fine, and many students at other schools even prefer them.

Q: Can my child use their cell phone as their device?

A: Unfortunately, no. Although cell phones can undoubtedly be used as a tool, they are primarily used as content consumption devices. At Gleneagle, one of our main goals is to promote a digital culture of content creators.

Q: Will all course content (workbooks, textbooks, novels, etc.) be digital?

A: No. Devices will be used to increase collaboration and enrich learning when suitable. This does not mean that students will no longer be using physical course materials or submitting assignments physically. Currently, publishers are still trying to make on-line texts and e-books more cost effective. When it is financially viable, we will migrate to digital content.

Q: What are the minimum requirements for a device?

Device Requirements	Device Recommendations
Minimum 10" screen	Camera/Webcam for stills and video
Must have a keyboard	Minimum 8 hour battery life
Must have wifi access	Minimum 16GB storage for tablet
	Protective Case
	Offline Functionality

Q: Do you recommend a specific device?

A: No. While it is important to ensure that the device meets the minimum requirements, we know that each user has a preference or tendency towards a specific device. Each particular device has its pros and cons. Most devices that will work well for your child are in the $300-$500 range.

Challenges

Although BYOD programs have already been introduced in several high schools in the district, this is Gleneagle's first year and we do anticipate some growing pains. We expect these difficulties to be largely related to keeping students safe, supported, and organized.

Keeping students Safe

Digital Citizenship is a key component of this initiative, and students will be taught the importance of positive interactions, self-representation, and online safety. Teachers and students will work together to guarantee this security is being maintained.

Support

Students (and teachers) are all at different levels of technological fluency, and it is very important that all learners are supported in this regard. Our goal is to develop a student-driven technological support team that can assist students when they encounter difficulties. Furthermore, students will develop their own troubleshooting skills as they become more comfortable with their devices.

Digital Bootcamp

What – Digital Bootcamp, to get our students connected and comfortable with 1:1

Where - Gleneagle Secondary School, Multipurpose Room

When – TBD, September 2018

Grade 9 students will report to their WINGS classes in the morning. All students are expected to attend the Digital Bootcamp with a device, fully charged. If students have not yet chosen, or purchased a device, they are still expected to attend and take part in the sessions demonstrating on devices they are interested in.

The session will help students get comfortable with their device, ensure they are able to connect to the school wifi, and inform them of digital support systems implemented at Gleneagle.

More information on the Digital Bootcamp will be distributed through the Gleneagle App and email. Follow our Channel: BYOD Digital Literacy Grade 9

Security Tips

Security of devices and theft prevention are very important. Although it is fair to assume these devices would be frequent targets of theft, high schools in the district that have already introduced BYOD have reported optimistically low numbers of thefts. That said, students need to be aware of how they can best guarantee the security of their devices. Some tips for students are:

- Physically lock your device in your locker when you aren't using it
- Bring your device to school fully charged
- Use a keylock/Password on your device
- Don't leave your device unattended
- Protect your device with a case
- Download a tracking app such as "Find my iPad"

Digital Literacy 10

What is Digital Literacy 10?

Digital literacy skills have become crucial for students to be successful in the 21st Century. In this course, students will be required to demonstrate the ability to efficiently and effectively navigate the digital technologies required to accomplish specific goals and tasks. This course will help all Grade 9 students develop these skills through an integrated learning format. Course work will be delivered through students' existing English 9 and Science 9 courses as well as periodic informational sessions. All grade 9 students will receive a grade 10 credit towards graduation. The curriculum will cover areas such as research and information literacy, creativity and innovation with technology, technology operations and concepts, and digital collaboration and citizenship.

The course has been designed to align with the Ministry of Education's redesigned curriculum and assessment and will focus on three competencies through the lens of digital literacy: (1) critical, creative and reflective thinking; (2) personal and social awareness and responsibility; and (3) connecting, collaborating and communicating.

Students will complete the course with a public digital portfolio demonstrating their growth in the core competencies. This portfolio will act as a foundation for graduation transitions assignments and to develop a positive digital footprint.

Digital Literacy and the Core Competencies

Digital literacy is an essential skill for this next generation of learner. Our goal is to develop learners who will thrive in this changing world so that they think differently, collaborate effectively, communicate eloquently and act ethically. A digital environment enables us to teach students in ways that are more relevant, engaging, personal and meaningful. Students benefit from real life opportunities to collaborate with each other and experts in the field. They learn to find information that is relevant to their learning, critically analyze various sources, deepen their understanding of concepts and skills, and demonstrate their learning in creative, dynamic and enjoyable ways. Our task is to enable your child to create a positive digital footprint that makes them marketable and sought after at the postsecondary level and in the workplace.

Digital Citizenship and Online Safety

All students must abide by the District Wide Network and Internet Use Expectations. Accessing the district network is a privilege, which will be revoked if students do not abide by the Code of Conduct.

https://www.sd43.bc.ca/Resources/DigitalCitizenship/Pages/RightsResponsibilites.aspx

Ensuring a student acts responsibly, ethically, and remains safe while online is a major goal of Gleneagle's Digital Literacy initiative. Many parents recognize that our children are interacting in a digital world, and at times without much adult supervision. Without being taught digital skills (like leaving a positive digital footprint), there can be serious impacts on their current or future opportunities. It is imperative that students are aware of the impact their digital actions have both on their lives and the lives of others. Reflections will be woven into each assignment of Digital Literacy, where students will be asked to think deeply and carefully about the content they are choosing to represent them online.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the following for support:

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