

ÉCOLE MONTGOMERY MIDDLE SCHOOL
BRING YOUR OWN LEARNING DEVICE (BYOLD)
INFORMATION PACKAGE

This guide is for parents and students who are attending Montgomery Middle School and whose advisory classrooms are participating in our BYOLD pilot program. Our **BYOLD** Guide refers to the practice of “Bring Your Own Learning Device,” which is technology that is parent-owned but used by students at school for learning. In January 2021, we invite families in participating classes to send a laptop or similar device to school each day to be used in learning activities.

In the last three years École Montgomery Middle staff have committed to the use of technology for the purpose of learning not entertainment. Gaming, listening to music, and other forms of entertainment are to be saved for home. As we transition to asking students to bring learning devices to school, our policy around gaming and technology as entertainment will not change. We encourage all parents to attend our information session to hear from Dave Sands, the District Principal of Technology and to ask questions.

Parent Information Session
SD43 Principal of Technology, Dave Sands

Thursday November 5th 6:30-7:15
[BYOLD Parent Info Meeting](#) via ZOOM

Why move to BYOLD?

All high schools in SD43 have a BYOLD program already established. Transitioning to BYOLD in Middle school allows students to have a better understanding of the tools they will be using in High school. Technology is ever present in our lives and the job sectors with the greatest opportunities for employment rely on the use of technology. See [BC Good Jobs Report 2020](#)

It is essential that we work together to teach our students the skills necessary to use and interact with technology capably and responsibly. Children are interacting in a digital world where very few adults are present. A lack of digital skills can have a serious impact on a child’s current or future opportunities. We have a professional responsibility to develop citizens who can collaborate, create, problem solve, analyze, and investigate in both digital and analog worlds.

Students graduating this year, and in the future, will be working in jobs and careers that require a competency in using digital technology.

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<p><i>Common skills needed in the 21st century include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Problem Solving• Communication• Information and Computer Literacy• Citizenship• Creativity• Critical Thinking• Decision Making• Collaboration• Personal and Social Responsibility	<p><i>The BC Ministry of Education has created curricular competencies that include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal Awareness and Responsibility• Social Awareness and Responsibility• Critical Thinking• Reflective Thinking• Creative Thinking• Positive Personal and Cultural Identity
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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.

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. A light, small computer fits best on the student desk, and fits easily in student lockers.

Please review the device recommendations below.

Device Recommendations:

- Keyboard
 - Minimum 10" screen
 - Protective case
 - A camera for stills and video
 - 8GB RAM memory or higher
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- *Optional: Stylus*
 - *Optional: Touchscreen / ability to annotate (i.e. Math)*
 - *Optional: An extra charge cord – one stays plugged in at home, one for the student's backpack*

There are also a limited number of school-owned devices that can be signed out for students whose families are in need. Please email Mrs. McLean dmclean@sd43.bc.ca to apply.

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Students may also bring other types of devices such as tablets (iPad or Android Nexus, for example). These device types may have strengths or challenges within the school setting, but have some basic capabilities including wireless connection, sending/retrieving data, and taking photos/video.

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](#)).

You do not need to purchase Microsoft Office. 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](#).

Digital Citizenship & On-line Safety

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

View the SD43 Digital Rights and Responsibilities:

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

Some of our goals are to assist and teach students to:

1. *Create a Positive Digital Footprint*
2. *Build Positive Working Relationships*
3. *Ask Before Posting, Photographing or Recording*
4. *Limit What You Say About Yourself*
5. *Use Technology to Create and Share Work*
6. *Stay Organized*
7. *Always Cite Sources*
8. *Report Inappropriate Use of Technology*

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Anyone trying to intimidate, harass, or bully others on-line may be charged through the Criminal Code (Section 264). Furthermore, it is also illegal to distribute obscene matter (Section 163), post images of anyone under 18 years engaging in sexual acts or depicting sexual organs (Section 163.1), injuring the reputation of others by exposing them to ridicule, hatred, or contempt (Section 298), or sending false messages intended to injure or alarm someone (Section 372).

Report these types of situations to the police or school staff immediately.

Security Tips

- Use a keylock/password on your device
- Do not leave your device somewhere then walk away
- Protect your device with a case
- Make sure that your device is labeled/engraved with your name or engraved
- Follow the classroom expectations around storing your laptop
- Download a tracking app such as “Find my iPad”

Disclaimer

Devices are the student’s and family’s responsibility. There is a possibility of damage when devices are dropped or not stored properly. The school cannot take responsibility for damaged devices.

Digital Tips for Student Success:

1. Log-off and shut down your device when you leave school, turn your device on and log-in every morning when you come to school.
2. Charge your device each night. Bring your charger (or an extra charger!) to school with you.
3. You receive Office 365 for FREE. You can access your account from the main school page. This includes your SD43 email.
4. Use a professional email address for professional things (for example, your SD43 email) and with your parent’s help, create a personal email address for personal things. Make sure you create appropriate email addresses!
5. Learn to keep your work organized on your device. Bookmark websites you use for classes for easy access.
6. Passwords! Remember your passwords, and/or keep them in a safe location. Never share your passwords with others.
7. Get a digi-buddy: find a person in your class who is using the same type of device as you, so you can troubleshoot together.

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In Summary

SD43 Core Values:

- It is not about technology – it is about learning!
- District Vision and Strategic Goals – [Directions 2020](#)

We are in search of...

- Personalizing learning
- Overcoming learning barriers
- Developing social responsibility
- Blurring the line between living and learning (learning doesn't stop when you leave school!)

Our commitment...

- SD43 will provide access if you cannot
- To develop digital responsibility in our students
- We are ready to work with your child
 - Teacher training
 - Access to resources
 - Access to tools

District Investments

- Bandwidth and wireless infrastructure
- Support for teachers

There are concerns to be addressed...

- Personal responsibility
- Digital citizenship and online safety
- Screen time (not all screen time is the same)

Still have questions or concerns? Please contact us:

Vice -Principal: Deana McLean
dmclean@sd43.bc.ca

Ecole Montgomery Middle School
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