

Frequently Asked Technology Questions for Parents of Incoming Grade 9 Students



Connect with Riverside



Digital Boot Camp

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

Where – Riverside Secondary

When – Tuesday September 5th, 9:15 am – 11:45 pm.
Please go to your RAP classrooms at 9:15 am, classroom lists will be posted in the main foyer.



All grade 9 students are expected to come to school for the Boot Camp. Grade 9 students will report to their RAP classes in the morning. A list of RAP classrooms will be posted in the main foyer. All students are expected to attend the Digital Boot Camp 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 to learn about devices they may be interested in, and about Riverside's digital culture.

Boot Camp Schedule – [Click Here](#)

1:1 Riverside Essentials Manuals – [Click Here](#)

Edublog Manuals – [Click Here](#)

If you have any questions about the Boot Camp or technology please email: 132-LIF@sd43.bc.ca

Technology Questions

Q: Do we currently have a purchase agreement for parents so that you may be able to get a discount when purchasing a device?

A: We do not. However, we have met with Staples to share with them the needs we have, such as insurance for damage, loss of a device, and payment plans. With any device purchase from Staples, they will offer:

- 4-year replacement plan including accidental damage- Cost: \$149 for units up to \$499.00
- 4-year replacement plan including accidental damage- Cost: \$199 for units \$500 and up
- They may also provide \$10 - \$50 worth of accessories, depending on availability
- Additionally, Staples will offer families financing options to try and assist in the purchase of a device. Please speak with the General Manager, Jana Neemo at the Coquitlam Store.

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

A: No. The tablet is useful for writing and apps. However, students will still be able to use paper and pencil, work books, and textbooks when needed. Laptops are great devices.

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

A: Our goal is to have 90%-95% of our students arrive with a device. In the first two years of this initiative, we have had approximately 90% of students come to school with a device. If a family has explored purchasing and financing options, but were not able to obtain a device, they should contact Riverside and speak with their child's

counsellor or administrator. The counsellors will create a list of students and will do their best to provide access to a device for the school year. Since the school will own those 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: Will all content (workbooks, textbooks, novels, etc.) be digital?

A: Where it makes sense to migrate to digital content, we will do so. Currently, publishers are still trying to make on-line texts and e-books more cost effective. So, where it is financially viable, we will migrate to digital content. In most cases, teachers have created their own resources which can easily be created in pdf format for digital consumption.

Q: Will the device last 4 years?

A: While it is difficult to say how technology will evolve over a four-year term, most users keep their technology for 4-6 years. In some households, families may choose to turn over their technology more regularly. What is most important is that the technology has adequate processing speed, memory, and security to enable students to successfully create content/presentations. It would also be beneficial to have a microphone, camera, and speakers built into the device.

Q: Do you recommend a particular device?

A: We strongly encourage parents and students to take time to research and sample the different devices that are available. We have learned that the device student's use become very personalized, and that their learning and willingness to use technology increases when they feel comfortable with their device. During the last several years, we have seen an increase in the use of laptops and windows based tablet devices. Please review the device recommendations below.

Q: What are the minimum requirements for a device?

Laptop / Tablet Recommendations:

- Ability to annotate (ie. Math).
- Stylus
- Protective case
- Keyboard
- Device should have a camera for stills and video
- Minimum 16GB storage for tablet
- Minimum 10 " screen
- Apps – See some of our recommendations
- Android 4.0 or higher, iOS 7 or higher, Windows 8 RT.
- Mac laptop (min. OSX 10.7)
- PC laptop (min. OS windows 7)

Security Tips

- Physically lock your device in your locker when you aren't using it
- Use a keylock/password on your device
- Don't leave your device on top of your locker then walk away
- Protect your device with a case
- Download a tracking app such as "Find my iPad"

Q: Do you have any further information on the 1:1 device initiative at Riverside?

A: Here is a [link](#) to an overview of our 1:1 initiative.