

Frequently Asked Technology Questions for Parents of Incoming Grade 9 Students



Digital Bootcamp

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

Where – Riverside Secondary

When – Tuesday, September 8th, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm



All grade 9 students are expected to come to school on Tuesday, September 8th from 9 am – 12 pm. Grade 9 students will report to their RAP 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 devices they are interested in.

Bootcamp Schedule – [Click Here](#)

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

Edublog Manuals – [Click Here](#)

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 fine.

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

A: Our goal is to have 80%-90% 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 we will do our 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: What are the minimum requirements for a device?

Tablet Recommendations:

- Ability to annotate (ie. Math).
- Stylus
- protective case
- 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)

Q: Do you recommend a particular device?

A: No. While it is important to ensure that the device meets the minimum requirements recommended, we know that each user has a preference or tendency towards a specific device (Apple users tend to always like apple products, Android users like Samsung, etc.). We have piloted Microsoft Surfaces, Ipads, and Samsung Notes. We have found that each device has pros and cons, but they have been solid performers in our test trials. The Ipad is easy to navigate and has many apps to choose from. The Galaxy Note has a terrific stylus for courses like math and science, comes with Polaris app (similar to using Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel), can run a split screen, and has an additional Micro SD port to upgrade memory storage. The Microsoft Surface works seamlessly on our network, has all the office software built in, and operates in many ways like a typical laptop with the touch screen features. Most devices that will work well for your child are in the \$300-\$500 range.

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

A: Here is a [link](#) to our website and resources, including the presentation from the parent night.