



Bring Your Own Device Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why are we doing Bring Your Own Device?

A: Lifelong learning. Learning doesn't stop at the end of the school day. We believe in the importance of developing creative and critical thinking skills that will serve students in all aspects of their lives. Using a tool like this will allow them to use the device they are already familiar with (or a device that they will become familiar with if it is new) in a new context. They will learn to use it as a tool for learning and presentation of learning and give them the skills they need to be successful in an increasingly technological world as they move into young adulthood. The School District has published their Direction 2025 document on developing lifelong learners which can be found here:

<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/Board/Vision/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

Q: Who is participating? What is needed to participate?

A: Intermediate classes (Grade 4 and 5) at Smiling Creek Elementary are participating in the Bring Your Own Device program. We are willing to support your child in the use of a wide variety of devices. Laptops, iPads, and tablets are all acceptable options. iPad minis, smartphones and data enabled watches are not usable devices for this program. The school policies e-form that parents fill out at the beginning of the year grants permission to access the internet. This form must be completed.

Q: What is the district perspective on BYOD?

A: BYOD implementation at the Grade 4/5 level occurs at many elementary locations throughout the District. Middle schools are either piloting BYOD or have implemented this model as well. Kwayhquitlum Middle has implemented BYOD and Minnekhada Middle School has now started the implementation process since they have into their new building. There are full scale programs at Aspenwood Elementary, Eagle Mountain Middle School, and Riverside Secondary. Terry Fox Secondary is also in the process of moving from pilot program to complete conversion.

Q: What kind of device will my child need?

A: The device your child brings will need to have a minimum of a **10-inch screen, as well as a keyboard**. While we can support a variety of devices, we have some recommendations below:

1. **We do not recommend iPads or Minis.** The screens are too small even with a keyboard. In addition, smart phones and data enabled watches are also not suitable devices for this program.
2. The district discourages Chrome Books and android tablets. They are unable/not optimized to run some of the software we use in the classroom.

3. Think about the size and weight of the device as students will need to carry it to and from school each day. Protective cases are **highly recommended**.
4. Battery Life - we encourage you to think about devices that have a longer battery life.
5. You do not need to buy a high-end device, but you may want to think about how many years you plan for your child to use this device. **We have noticed an issue with devices that have limited Hard Drive Space.**
6. Students in the district all get Office 365 for **free**. You do not need to purchase any software.
7. We highly recommend students bring a mouse when bringing in a laptop.
8. We are a Windows 10 district, and many students have greater success on windows 10 or 11 devices.

Q: What if a family can't afford a device?

A: The School District is committed to supporting our vulnerable families on a case-by-case basis. If you are unable to acquire a device for the BYOD Program, please email smilingcreek@sd43.bc.ca.

Q: Do you have a supplier for devices?

A: The School District does not have a dedicated or recommended supplier currently.

Q: What will they be using their devices for?

A: Students will use their devices for a wide variety of activities, including but not limited to: writing and editing, using reading comprehension tools, coding, 3D representations of math, research, documentation of learning, and self-assessment in digital portfolios.

Q: Will my child still be learning to read, write and do math?

A: Device use will in no way replace reading, writing or math instruction. Students will still read from a wide variety of paper-based sources, write using pencils and pens, and learn both written and mental math strategies. The devices will be used as tools to enhance learning, to help students overcome specific learning barriers, and to document and share learning.

Q: Why can't they just use the school computers?

A: The school computers are used daily for all students in the school. This limits the amount of time that we have access to them and limits the flexibility that we have to use them at the time that the use of the device would most be valuable. Having students bring their own devices, allows us to use them at optimal times to enhance the learning that is already going on in the classroom. We also hope to teach the children to use the same device that they are already using at home more effectively for the learning environment.

Q: How much time will they be on the device?

A: Device use will vary from day to day. Devices will be used with a ratio of one student to one device at times, and a ratio of several students to one device at others. It is important to note again that device use will not replace pencils, paper and books in the classroom. Students will still learn to write with pencils, read books and other texts, and do math using both written and mental math strategies. The devices will be used as tools to enhance learning, not replace it.

Q: When the devices are at school where will they be kept?

A: When devices are not in use, they will be kept in a locked cupboard. Students will only have devices out when they are actively using them. When they are finished, they will put the device away. Students will be taught how to safely and responsibly take out, walk with, care for, use and put away their devices. This includes bringing the device to school charged and ready to go daily. We hope that these skills transfer to their use of the devices at home as well.

Q: What safety precautions will be taken for the devices?

A: When devices are not in use at school, they will be kept in a locked cabinet. Students will be taught to care for their devices at school. There are already, and will continue to be, strict District guidelines in place for device use and care, and if students do not comply, there will be consequences including the loss of privilege to use the device.

Digital citizenship and safety are part of our Technology (ADST) curriculum. These guidelines and principles will be taught and frequently reviewed in class.

Students' information is securely stored by the School District. The internet is filtered by the Ministry of Education. Teachers will primarily be using programs and sites which have been vetted by the School District and other reputable sources for safety and security. Students will be taught guidelines about safe and effective use of search engines and how to evaluate sources of information before they begin to use outside sites.

Q: What if my child's device gets damaged?

A: We will certainly do our best to ensure the students are taught how to keep their devices safe from both damage in transit to and from school, as well as at school, ultimately students are responsible for the care of their own devices. This is part of their learning.

Q: What guarantee can I have that my child will continue to use the device after this year?

A: This program includes a commitment from the parent community and the school. The school is committing to this program on an ongoing basis. Our goal is to provide the children with transferable skills using their own devices, so even if a future teacher was not yet working with the BYOD model at full scale, your child would have the knowledge and the skills to use their own device to their advantage both at home and at school, independently.