



September 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The reason why Banting is a BYOLD (Bring Your Own Learning Device) school is because, increasingly, there are many daily lessons in the classroom where students can collaborate safely with their classmates through Office 365 tools such as OneNote and other shared digital documents. We invite families to send a device to school each day to be used in learning activities and only for that purpose.

Use of any devices for learning will be under the direct supervision and discretion of the teacher. Further to that, students must connect to our school network via our Wi-Fi. Any use of personal data to access on-line content is strictly prohibited.

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. Devices need not be new; there are many avenues to access and purchase gently used laptops.

**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. We do NOT recommend iPads, tablets, or Chromebooks as we have found that consistently there have been challenges with these devices.

Device Recommendations:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keyboard</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Protective Case</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum 10” Screen</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A camera for stills and video</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SSD Hard Drive storage 128GB or higher</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8GB RAM memory or higher</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Optional: Stylus</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Optional: An extra Charge cord – one stays plugged in at home, one for the student’s backpack</i></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Optional: Touchscreen/ability to annotate (i.e. Math)</li></ul>	

- You do not need to purchase Microsoft Office (see below)

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 – which is provided through the district at no parent cost),
- and
- Access to the internet (multiple browsers are recommended, such as Chrome, Safari, Firefox & Microsoft Edge).

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 include Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point, OneNote, Sway, Teams and more. This free account enables 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, Microsoft Teams, IXL, Minecraft: Education Edition, Blooket and more.

Safety and Responsibility

Students will not be permitted to use cell phones, play video games or use social media while on school property except under specific permission by a supervising adult.

We have a device-free Nutrition Break and Lunch. All devices should be secured in the classroom or locker when not in use during class, and all cell phones need to remain in students’ lockers during the day. Students can access their cell phones with permission at Nut Break and Lunch.

Digital Citizenship

Any use of internet enabled devices by students at school and district code-of-conduct. Please see excerpts below. As well, out district has put together a website about digital responsibility here: <https://www.sd43.bc.ca/Resources/DigitalCitizenship>.

PEDs (Personal Electronic Devices) should be used respectfully and responsibly. The content on a PED must be appropriate and any staff member can request to see or hear a PED at any time. For safety purposes, the volume level of the PED must be at a level that the individual using it can hear others around them in case of an emergency. PEDs that are not connected to earphones or ear buds must either be silent, or at a teacher’s discretion, be at a volume level that is quiet and does not disrupt others.

- Pictures and Recordings unless for classroom assignments are NEVER to be taken at school, including before and after school hours.
- PEDs are NEVER to be present in washrooms or change rooms for ANY reason.

Using a PED at Banting is a privilege. If it is abused, a student may lose the privilege to have a PED at Banting. If PED use compromises the privacy or safety of a person at Banting, consequences can range from confiscation of the PED to suspension – or both. THE SCHOOL IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECURITY OF PEDs AT ANY TIME.

AP 140-2 Digital Responsibility for Students

The district endorses the provision of district-wide network and Internet services to support student learning. While there are many benefits, there is also potential for misuse. Students are not permitted to create, distribute or access any material which is not suitable for classroom learning.

When using technology, district electronic mail (email) services, social networking, collaboration, blogging, media sharing tools, in relation to their role, students and staff are expected to act as appropriate digital citizens as laid out in the procedures.

**Any behavior that does not meet the expectations explained in our school code-of-conduct or these procedures may lead to student discipline, limitations on their network access privileges, and potentially suspension.**

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher or one of us.

Thank you,

Tristan McCutcheon  
Principal

Nicole Bourbonnais  
Vice-Principal

By signing below, you acknowledge that you and your child have read and understood the expectations around the use of electronic devices at Banting Middle School.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Div: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Use of school device

For families who find it a financial challenge to provide their child with a device, the school does have a limited number of devices available and would like to provide the opportunity for your child to sign-out a laptop to use on an ongoing basis for the year. Please indicate below if your child will require a school device.

☐ My Child will require the use of school provided device.