



Scott Creek Middle School

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Lisa Rinke, Principal

Colleen Castonguay, Vice Principal

June 2019

Dear Parents:

After looking at two years of student feedback through our Middle Development Instrument Surveys completed with support from the University of BC and through the BC Ministry of Education Satisfaction Surveys we as a school community have been looking for more ways to “connect” with our students. Creating a positive school climate based on strong relationships provides a strong base for learning. Students need to feel a sense of safety and belonging in order to thrive in school.

Communities at Scott Creek are changing to include grade 6/7 classes and grade 7/8 classes next year. This means that our Grizzlies, Wolves, GOATS and Panthers will have some classes of grade 6/7 and some classes of 7/8. Starting next year, our grade 6 students will complete their three years at Scott Creek in a single community.

Research shows that SEL can have a positive impact on school climate and promote a host of academic, social, and emotional benefits for students. A recent meta-analysis of 213 rigorous studies of SEL in schools indicates that students receiving quality SEL instruction demonstrated:

- Better academic performance: achievement scores an average of 11 percentile points higher than students who did not receive SEL instruction
- Improved attitudes and behaviors: greater motivation to learn, deeper commitment to school, increased time devoted to schoolwork, and better classroom behavior
- Fewer negative behaviors: decreased disruptive class behavior, noncompliance, aggression, delinquent acts and disciplinary referrals

Many students will be changing communities and will have different teachers next year. We asked their current teachers to match students based on who they worked well with and asked students who they liked to work with. Based on this information we have placed our students into classrooms which best support their learning. Students will stay with this community for their next two years if they are going into grade 7, all three years if they are starting in grade 6. We thank you in advance for supporting the many hours that go into class building at Scott Creek to provide optimum learning opportunities for all students.

Please see attached information about our new school-wide BYOD initiative for next year at Scott Creek.

We look forward to working with you in September and wish you a wonderful summer holiday.

Kind regards,

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It is an inescapable fact that internet connected devices are a part of our daily lives. As we move deeper into the 21st century, our interconnectedness through the internet will only increase. Because our world relies on this connection, everyone should understand the power and the pitfalls of internet technology.

Presently most of our students only use internet technology for entertainment in the forms of video games, videos, and social media. At Scott Creek we believe that it is important to educate our students to use the power of the internet for self-betterment. To learn with and to practice with technology, students must have access to that technology. It is for this reason that Scott Creek is beginning a school-wide BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) program for the 2019-2020 school year.

Your child's primary tool when using their BYOD computer will be Office 365 (O365). All students in SD43 are provided with an O365 account for use at school and at home. As part of that account, students will have access to the entire Office Suite at no cost to the family. At school, students will learn to use the tools within O365. They will use Teams to communicate, collaborate, share files, and complete assignments. They will use Word to publish reports. They will use OneNote as a virtual binder and they will use OneDrive to store much of their work. As Microsoft rolls out new updates for these educational products, parents will have read-only access to see their child's work.

At Scott Creek we take safety seriously. All students and parents should be aware of SD43's Rights and Responsibilities for online safety. If you have not reviewed this page with your child, please do (<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/Resources/DigitalCitizenship/Pages/RightsResponsibilites.aspx>). We are aware that a computer is a significant financial investment in your child's learning. Scott Creek Staff will work hard to provide a safe environment for that device. However, ultimately the student and family are responsible for ensuring the device is secured in a safe place when it is not in use.

As mentioned above, BYOD is about using the technology for self-betterment. As such, Scott Creek will have a device-free nutrition break and lunch. We have many activities for the students and we will continue to encourage student participation in activities that do not use electronic devices.

At Scott Creek we hope that all students will have a BYOD device by January of next year. More information will be forthcoming in September and we will have a question and answer period at the Parent Information night on September 19th.

FAQ

1. I am concerned about screen time. How much time will my child spend on their computer?
 - a. These devices will not replace reading, writing or mathematics; they will enhance student learning and help students to overcome learning barriers. Students will not be using their devices for the entire day. Having a computer at school is about ACCESS. Access to both information and digital tools for learning. It is also important to note that between 8:30 and 3:00, student computers are not to be used for social media, video games, or other non-school related activities.
2. What computer should I get?
 - a. Although we cannot recommend a specific machine, here are some guidelines:

Minimum requirements	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10" screen is a little small, 15" screen is a little big• Physical Keyboard• 128gb hard drive for laptop with windows 10 or IOS 11 / 64gb hard drive for tablet• 4gb of RAM• Ability to connect to WiFi	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laptops have a built-in keyboard and are far more functional than tablets.• Laptops around 14" have proven to be the best size. Any bigger than this and they get heavy, are harder to store, and tend not to fit in backpacks.• Windows 10 or MacOS 11 or higher – Students will be using Office 365 (supplied by the School District) most days. Older operating systems do not work as well with newer Office products.• 8 hours of battery life or a power cord that travels with the computer, or both.• An SSD (solid state drive)• 8gb of RAM• Ruggedized (possibly using a protective case)• A webcam• Headphone jack and headphones or earbuds.

3. How much money should we spend?
 - a. Like most things, you get what you pay for. But, computer prices can get out of hand. Students **DO NOT** need \$1000 computers. Good computers, that should last many years, are available for around \$500. If you want your computer to last a few years, consider spending the extra money on a Solid-State Hard Drive (SSD). These SSDs are significantly faster, more robust, and will keep your computer fast for years to come. However, all computers eventually become outdated. Don't anticipate more than 4 years use.
4. What if our family can't afford a laptop?
 - a. The School District is committed to supporting our vulnerable families on a case by case basis. Families can request a district device for their child however we will be basing the distribution upon financial need.
5. I want to support my child in developing a positive online profile and making healthy choices. Do you have any recommendations for further reading?
 - a. SD43s digital citizenship site:
 - <https://my432016.sd43.bc.ca/LIT/Pages/DC/DigitalCitizenship.aspx>
 - b. SD43s digital Rights and Responsibilities site:
 - <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/Resources/DigitalCitizenship/Pages/RightsResponsibilities.aspx>