Dear Scott Creek Community,

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.

You 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 0365. 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
• 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	• Laptops have a built-in keyboard and are far more functional that tablets. • Laptops around 13" 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. • A 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 heathy choices. Do you have and 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/RightsResponsibilites.aspx