

# Hunter School of the Performing Arts

## BYOD – Bring Your Own Device

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Parents and Community



#### **What is BYOD?**

BYOD is a program whereby students will be able to bring a familiar personal device to school to use as their primary technological device. The school can provide the ability to connect compatible devices to a filtered internet service.

#### **What will be provided by the school?**

The school will provide access to a filtered wi-fi internet service. No other support, software or service will be provided by the school. **Note:** schools that provide student-device access to the network via an Ethernet cable are operating outside DEC network security guidelines. This is beyond the scope of the BYOD policy, guidelines and student agreement.

#### **Who pays for the technology brought to school?**

These devices will be purchased by and remain the property of the family.

#### **What types of computing devices may my child bring to school?**

Students may bring devices such as laptops, netbooks and tablets. Please be aware devices such as Nintendo DSis and Sony PSPs are considered gaming devices and are not part of the BYOD program.

#### **What will happen if my child cannot bring their own device to school? What about equity?**

HSPA has a number of laptop trolleys that have been allocated across faculties for Years 7-9. Teachers will book trolleys to support lessons that require access to technology. Year 10-12 students have been issued with DERvices. In addition, 2013 Yr 12 students have been asked to donate their laptop back to the school, which could potentially increase the number of laptop trolleys.

#### **Can my child use their mobile phone/smartphone as their BYOD?**

No. This decision has been made based on the 2013 HSPA Technology Use in Schools parent survey, staff discussions and other research. The parent survey indicated clear opposition to mobile phones being used as the primary learning device at school. Other reasons include: poor screen size for extended periods of learning; a poor tool for extended typing, research, learning applications; ease of distraction – games, texts, social media; increased chance of disruption to teaching and learning; greater access to take/ disseminate photos and sending messages, cheating, cyber bullying; possible inequity with some students being unable to afford a smartphone. A mobile phone is often not the best tool for the task.

#### **Will there be a permission form that needs to be signed before a student brings their own device to school?**

Yes, parents and students will need to sign the BYOD agreement before students can use the device within the school.

#### **How will theft, loss, or damage of a personally owned device be handled in a school?**

The guidelines for the BYOD program specifically address the risk of students bringing their own devices to school. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.

#### **Will I need to have Internet access at home?**

No. It would be helpful, however, to have some form of Internet access (wired or wireless) in order for a child to make full use of school resources from home, as well the multitude of resources available on the World Wide Web. But, it is not required in order for a child to use a personal computing device at school. In addition there are many providers of free wi-fi in the community that students could use to access the internet outside of school hours. Please be aware that these connections do not provide access to a filtered internet experience as experienced on the schools network.

#### **Will the wireless access be filtered?**

The wireless Internet access available to students will be filtered in the same way that access is managed at present. If students connect using their 3G or 4G connection then this will bypass the filtering, this is not covered by the BYOD policy and is not permitted by the school.

**Will there be technical assistance provided to access the wireless network or to assist with the use of BYOD devices?**

Since there are literally hundreds of devices that could be brought to school as part of the BYOD program, there is no technical assistance provided other than providing the name of the wireless connection. Students will be expected to know how to connect their devices.

**Will students be able to recharge devices during the school day?**

Students should not have the expectation that they will be able to charge devices at school. Many school buildings do not have the capacity to handle additional electrical demands for charging personally owned devices. Students should bring their device fully charged to school.

**Will students be able to record teachers or classmates (audio or video)?**

With the permission of the teacher, **and as part of a teacher directed activity**, students can make recordings.

**Can teachers require students to bring their own devices?**

No. Students are not required to participate in the BYOD program. However, students may find it easier to more fully engage in lessons with their own device.

**Will students be able to use their devices before or after school? During lunch?**

Yes.

**Does the school provide Insurance for damage, loss or theft?**

No. We do however recommend taking out insurance to cover these possibilities.

**Can students use another student's device?**

**No.** Due to the inherent nature of personally owned devices, devices should only be used by the owner of the device. Usually, having physical access to a personal device also provides the ability to email or text message from the device. Passwords must not be shared.

**How will students be able to print?**

Students will not have the capability to print from their devices in school. They will need to copy a file to a USB disk and connect this to a designated printer.

**Is the use of 3G allowed within the school day?**

The BYOD policy only covers the connection of devices to the school WIFI. It must be reinforced that if students use their 3G or 4G connection they will not be receiving filtered access to the internet. Accessing sites on the internet must always comply with the school's BYOD policy.

**As a parent, am I required to add additional software (virus protection, filter, tracking device etc.) to my child's technology tool?**

Yes. All applicable devices that connect to the internet will need to have antivirus software installed. No other software is expected to be installed on student machines. Teachers may recommend programs to support subject requirements.

**How will these devices be used in the classroom?**

Students will use their devices for a variety of activities which will vary from class to class. Activities may include (but are not limited to): complete in class activities, collaborate in real time, research for projects, access websites with curriculum-related content, keep track of classroom assignments, and record journal entries and other approved instructional activities.

**I don't have an electronic communication device that my child can bring to school. Will my child be penalized or miss out on instruction?**

No, it is not mandatory for students to bring a device, even if they do own one. However, students may find it easier to more fully engage in lessons with their own device.

**Will teachers be responsible for troubleshooting and fixing students' devices?**

Since there are literally hundreds of devices that could be brought to school as part of the BYOD program, there is no technical assistance provided other than providing the name of the wireless connection. Students will be expected to know how to connect their devices (instructions will be provided).

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