



# BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

For most students today, using technology in their personal lives is second nature. Now, through Bring Your Own Device (BYOD), River East Transcona School Division will be inviting students in grades 9 to 12, under their teachers' direction, to use that technology in their classrooms where combined with effective teaching practices, it will extend and enhance their learning. BYOD will be phased in beginning March 6.

### **What is BYOD?**

BYOD means students will be allowed to bring their personal devices to school to use in class under the direction of their teacher.

### **What devices will be allowed?**

Students can bring their smartphone, iPad, tablet, netbook, or laptop to use in class. The device must be able to connect to the internet and have the ability to access RETSD-supported cloud storage and collaboration tools such as Office 365.

### **What if my son/daughter doesn't have a device? Should I buy them one?**

The division does not expect students to have their own device and you are under no obligation to purchase one. The decision is yours as a parent to make. If you decide to buy a device, first discuss with your son/daughter how they expect to use it in class. Each product has different features so look for a device that best fits their needs and your budget.

### **What happens if there are students in class who don't have a device?**

BYOD will not require every student to have a device. While there will be limited access to school-owned devices for students who don't own one, it's important to note lessons will never be structured in a way that relies on every student having a device in class or at home. Lessons will be planned so that students using school devices will not need to take them home.

### **Why is using technology in the classroom important?**

While not every lesson will incorporate the use of technology, teachers know that if used the right way, it can be a powerful tool for extending and enriching learning. The increased number of devices in a classroom can enhance opportunities for students to:

- Access a global library of content, resources and experts
- Research world events and topics in real time
- Communicate effectively and work collaboratively with peers and teachers
  
- Share ideas, opinions and arguments in creative ways
- Personalize their learning
- Achieve digital citizenship
- Experience equitable learning opportunities, especially for students with special needs

### **Why do students have to use their own devices?**

Personally-owned devices are a way for students to take what they use in their daily lives and make it a normal part of their classroom experience. There are a number of reasons why BYOD works:

- Students know how to use their device and can customize it to their personal use.
- Students and teachers can capitalize on the students' expertise with their personal device to support and extend their learning in a variety of curricular areas.
- Students can use their device at school and at home.
- Students can collaborate with their peers after school about their school work.
- Providing a device to every student is expensive, can be difficult to sustain, and may limit the ability to maximize the use of technology as a teaching and learning tool.

### **Will students have to use their own data plan to access the internet?**

No. RETSD has a very robust wireless network that makes accessing the internet possible throughout most areas of each of its schools. Students will receive a password enabling them to access the internet for free. Students will be expected to log on to the division network, which is monitored and filtered for content, using their school-provided login credentials. Charging stations won't be available, so students will need to be sure to charge their devices before bringing them to school.

### **What if my daughter/son loses or damages their device at school?**

Students will be responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged personal devices, just as they are for any other personal items they bring to school. The division is not responsible for any additional costs students may incur.

### **What rules will be in place regarding the use of personal devices?**

Digital citizenship is an important part of BYOD. Students will be given guidelines for using their personal devices and will be expected to adhere to RETSD's Code of Conduct. (The Code of Conduct can be found on the division website at [Your RETSD>Policies.](#))