

Bring Your Own Device (B.Y.O.D.) Initiative

Dear Fourth Grade Families,

As technology continues to change the world in which we live, technology has become an essential part of education here at Chelsea Prep. Technology use in our classrooms focuses on developing critical research skills, opportunities for communication, individual academic enrichment, and creative, learning-centered projects. Our focus is always on having the students create rather than consume content, all within a safe, supervised environment.

In past years, while we have striven to provide appropriate access to computers as an essential educational tool, technology use in the classroom has been less than seamless due to hardware limitations. With our school growing, we simply do not have access to enough computers to allow the students seamless access. The students are sometimes frustrated by our technological limitations, especially since the digital natives in our classrooms are often accustomed to having technology at their fingertips.

In an effort to nurture our digital learners and empower them to take control of their own learning, we are continuing B.Y.O.D. program from third grade to allow students to use personal technology devices while at school. Please see the FAQ below to learn more about B.Y.O.D.

Warm Regards,

The Fourth Grade Teachers

Bring Your Own Device (B.Y.O.D.)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What type of device should my child bring?

A: Our preference is that students bring a laptop; either PC, Apple, or Chromebook computers are fine. We feel that laptops are the gold standard for content creation, given that students can easily type, create web content, program, and edit digital content on laptops.

Tablet devices (e.g. iPads,) are our runner-up devices. While tablets have many wonderful uses, students are often less comfortable typing with on-screen keyboards, some websites do not work properly on tablets, and installing/updating software can be somewhat more complicated.

Students do NOT need a new device at school. A hand-me-down or refurbished laptop would be perfect! Our main technical requirements are that the devices can wirelessly connect to the internet (Wi-Fi enabled), ideally can hold a charge, and has access to Google. If you send in a device that is set up with administrative passwords, please provide the necessary information so that we can update and install software, and connect your device to the school's wireless network.

Q: Where will the device "live"?

A: The laptop/tablet (called the "device" here,) will remain at school for the duration of the school year. It is unwieldy for the students to bring their devices to and from school on a regular basis, (the devices weigh too much in their backpacks,) and if the devices travel back and forth, they are far more likely to break. Devices will return home at the end of the school year.

Q: What will happen if my child does not bring a device to school?

A: Providing a device for your child is NOT mandatory, and we completely understand that it is not possible for all families to send a device to school. We have many devices at school that will be available to students who do not bring in a laptop from home, and we will make every effort to ensure that all students have access to technology while at school, regardless of whether they have brought in their own device. B.Y.O.D. is intended to augment, not replace school-owned technology, and we hope that B.Y.O.D. will free up school-owned devices to allow greater access for everyone.

Q: Who is responsible for the device?

A: Ultimately, you (and your child) are responsible for the device that your child brings to school. Chelsea Prep is not liable for damaged, lost, or stolen devices. However, we understand that fourth graders cannot entirely manage their devices without teacher support. We will provide a secure storage solution (locked cabinet/closet) for all devices within the classroom, as well as basic technical support. We will teach students how to responsibly care for their devices. Both fourth grade teachers have taught extensively with devices in their respective classrooms and have excellent track records in terms of the successful maintenance of classroom devices.

While the school is not legally responsible for B.Y.O.D. devices, as always, we teachers are responsible for how the devices are used by the students in the classroom, and we will teach appropriate digital citizenship. (Devices will join our school wireless network that enables safe, filtered web access.) Furthermore, we will make sure that all classroom technology use is purposeful and supports a rigorous curriculum that emphasizes critical thinking and social interactions.

Bring Your Own Device Acceptable Use Policy for Students

- I will only access my own email or sites to which I belong using my own username and password.
- I will only use the device to support my learning.
- During 'No Device' tasks, I will make sure my device is turned off and stored safely and securely in the classroom.
- I will only digitally communicate with students in my class, or people my teacher have approved.
- Any messages or posts that I send online will be polite, responsible and respectful. I will proofread all of my work online so that I do not post work that has errors and typos.
- I will not give or post my home and school address, telephone number, last name, age, email address, or any other personal information unless my parent or teacher has given me permission. (I will double check that I have permission! This is important to stay safe on the Internet.)
- I will report any inappropriate or unpleasant material I encounter online to a trusted adult (teacher or parent) straight away.
- I understand that the school may check my device and will monitor my Internet use while my device is in school.
- I understand that the school may have to make some changes to network settings on my device to allow it access the Internet at school. The school may also install educational software onto my device as needed.
- I will not take my device outside of the classroom unless my teacher has given me permission.
- I will take care of my device when I have it in school, particularly when moving around the classroom or learning area. I will ensure that my device is left in the secure storage area in the classroom when I leave.

Bring Your Own Device Agreement Form

Name of child: _____ Class: _____

Please tick the boxes below to confirm you have read and accept the terms of this agreement.

1. I give my child permission to bring in the device listed below for use in school.

Device 1:

Related accessories/peripherals:

2. I understand that the school cannot refund or pay for repair or replacement of the device listed above, should it be lost, stolen, damaged or broken while in school.

3. The device and any case or peripherals will be marked with my child's name.

4. I will ensure that the device is "cleaned" of any non-educational media and software prior to my child bringing the device into school.

5. I give permission for the school to join the device(s) to the school network in order to provide access to the Internet. I understand that, although this is filtered access, the school cannot be held responsible for any material that the child may access in school.

6. I have discussed the 'BYOD' Acceptable Use Policy (on reverse) with my child and they have signed this agreement.

7. My child will ensure that their device is not taken outside during lunch/recess and that they are placed in the secure storage area before leaving their classroom.

Signed: _____ (parent/guardian)

Signed: _____ (pupil)

Date: _____