



Stony Plain Central School

5108 - 55 Avenue, Stony Plain, Alberta T7Z 1R4

Phone 780-963-2203

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BYOD Technology Initiative

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We are excited to continue our Bring Your Own Device technology learning initiative into the 2015/2016 school year. This initiative will have our students using their personal electronic device (Chromebook, laptop, tablet etc.) in the classroom when it is the most appropriate tool for their learning. This initiative began last school year with much success in our Grade 7 and 8 classes. **This year, we are excited to expand this initiative to include any of our students attending Grades 6 – 9.** Our BYOD initiative is intended to increase student engagement, improve academic achievement, foster creativity and improve digital literacy in order to prepare our students for their future.

On our Parkland School Division website there are several parent resources available to aid your decision to include your child in this initiative, as well as guidance toward which device is right for your child. These are available at the following links:

<http://www.psd70.ab.ca/OurSchools/TechforLearning/Pages/Default.aspx>

http://www.psd70.ab.ca/Documents/BYOD_Parent_Info.pdf

Device Guidelines

We do not endorse any specific mobile device; we merely recommend that it have the following capabilities:

- Internet connectivity (through Wi-Fi or other means)
- Ability to connect to Google Apps for Education
- A keyboard - integrated, Bluetooth or touch screen
- Word processing capability (should be able to produce more than 1 paragraph)
- 6 hours of battery life
- Ability to integrate images, video and sound

****Please note that cell phones and iPods are NOT considered a BYOD approved device at Stony Plain Central.**

****Please note that your child still requires a basic set of school supplies if they are bringing their own device. Please see the attached explanation.**

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at the school at 780 - 963 - 2203 or Landon O'Hara at lohara@psd70.ab.ca.

Sincerely,

Landon O'Hara



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Even though your child may be bringing their own device, they still require a basic set of school supplies. We are not completely paperless and we are continuing to work towards a true 1:1 technology environment. Our teachers are providing digital copies of assignments, notes and projects whenever possible, but there are occasions where paper copies are still necessary. For example, one such subject area where paper, pencil and other specific materials are still required is Math. We ask that BYOD students come prepared in September with supplies such as:

- Binder
- Pens/Pencils
- Paper
- Math supplies such as ruler, calculator, geometry sets (if required grade level)

Please check your child's School Start Supply List for a grade specific list supplies and plan accordingly.

Parkland School Division

TECHNOLOGY FOR LEARNING - A Parent Resource

Within Parkland School Division, staff and students use the power of technology in a purposeful and meaningful way to deepen understanding and demonstrate learning. PSD believes that moving towards a 1:1 technology environment will promote a culture of seamless integration with technology, provide authentic learning opportunities, and remove barriers. This opportunity allows for staff and students to utilize both school-owned and personally owned mobile devices (such as laptops, netbooks, tablets, smartphones) that will access all the resources necessary for teaching and learning while developing digital citizenship and social responsibility.

Our purpose is to prepare, engage and inspire our students to be their best in a quickly changing global community through:

- teaching teamwork and collaboration skills
- fostering creativity
- promoting critical thinking and self-assessment
- improving student access to technology and integration into the curriculum
- raising achievement levels
- training students to be good digital citizens by connecting with each other and the world, so they are able to live responsibly in today's digital world.

Does my child have to bring in their own device?

PSD students are not required to bring in their own devices (BYOD). The school will have other devices for use which may or may not be assigned to the student, their home classroom or a specific classroom they are working in. What is important is ensuring that when a student brings their personally owned device to class, they will be motivated to link to the educational opportunities the device enables them to access. As well, teachers and students will have ongoing conversations about recommended educational applications for knowledge acquisition, creation and collaboration using technology.

How do I know when my child is ready for BYOD?

A student is ready when they can easily explain how the technology works and how it can assist them in their learning. Specific standards are already set through the current "Responsible Use of Technology Agreement - Students" form that is signed annually by each student in PSD.

If you are interested in taking part in the optional BYOD Initiative, Parkland School Division has compiled some guidelines for appropriate devices. We do not endorse any specific mobile device; we merely recommend that it have the following capabilities:

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- ability to connect to Google Apps for Education
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What are the expectations for a BYOD learning environment?

Teachers will work with students to explore, create, think critically, collaborate and imagine various opportunities to make learning exciting and relevant with various kinds of media, materials and resources.

Through Inspiring Education, Alberta Education has identified several policy shifts needed to support students to become engaged thinkers and ethical citizens, with an entrepreneurial spirit. One of those shifts requires students to use technology to support the creation and sharing of knowledge, as recognized in the [Learning and Technology Policy Framework](#) (2013).

