

Dear Harbor View Parents of incoming 5th and 6th graders,

This past spring, our PFO sent out a survey asking a variety of questions to guide us on programs, initiatives, and spending. One area we asked was in the area of Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) as a possibility for our upper grade students. While we are very proud of the 1:1 iPad program in grades 4-6, the reality of keeping technology current is a costly and challenging endeavor. Respondents to the survey were overwhelmingly supportive of the idea and our teachers were also excited about the possibilities a BYOD program would bring! With the support of the parent community and teaching staff, Harbor View is excited to announce a new opportunity for our fifth and sixth grade students. The Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) initiative will allow students, at the supervision and permission of teachers, to bring their personal technology devices to school to use in the classroom.

The BYOD initiative will be available to students in grades 5 and 6 only and will be replacing the 1:1 program we had in those grades. **For next school year, our current stock of iPads will be allocated to our K-4 classrooms so that teachers in those grade levels can have class sets instead of grade level sets.** Some examples of devices that students may bring to school for use in the classroom are laptops, iPads, Chromebooks, and other tablets with browsing capabilities. The benefits of a BYOD program in an educational setting are many. Our kids are digital natives and we believe that technology devices are simply another tool that can enhance learning through access to Internet resources, engagement, and collaboration. In addition, BYOD will allow us to stay current on up-to-date technologies, applications, and web-based programs without having to increase fundraising efforts, etc.

Implementing a program of increased access to digital content is the shared responsibility of our entire learning community in order for it to be successful. We look forward to the educational opportunities that BYOD will bring to our students and staff. We anticipate that there will be some challenges along the way but we've created a set of common-sense guidelines to help frame an understanding for students, staff and parents going forward. As parents/guardians, your assistance with communicating and enforcing these common-sense guidelines is anticipated and greatly appreciated.

#### **Common-Sense Guidelines**

1. Fifth and sixth students will use approved devices in classrooms and their school buildings at the discretion of teachers and administrators. Access is only available, not guaranteed for each classroom situation.
2. Students must have a signed user agreement on file and all approved devices will receive a sticker to place on the device. All devices are to be kept on silent mode during the school day.
3. Images or video must not be recorded at school or be transmitted or posted at any time without the express permission of a teacher.
4. The BYOD program supports educational work in the classroom. When in class, students are expected to be focused on learning. Personal use of these devices is not permitted in classrooms.

This is an exciting initiative that will help students take their learning further. We hope to see many students taking advantage of this program!

Thank you again for your support as we implement this initiative for the 2016-17 school year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Schmidt

# **BYOD FAQs**

## **Is my child required to bring a device to school?**

No student will be required to bring a device to school. BYOD is merely an option that will be available to any 5th and 6th grade student at Harbor View. All students will continue to be able to utilize desktop computers in the classroom and we will have a limited number of iPads available to teachers to loan out during class time. No student will be left out of the instruction process.

## **What devices can we bring? Do you recommend one device over another?**

A tablet, Nook, iPad, laptop, smartphone, Chromebook etc. that can access a wireless server are all devices that can be brought. *Corona del Mar Middle and High Schools, however, recommend that students have one of the following: (a) a laptop (Mac or PC are both fine!); or (b) an iPad with a WIRED keyboard*

## **What if my child's device is lost, stolen, or damaged?**

Students may bring electronic devices to school at their own risk, just like other personal items. The District and Harbor View will not be held responsible if a personal electronic device is lost, stolen, or misplaced.

Once the user agreement is signed by both the student and parent/guardian and returned to the student's homeroom teacher, the technology teacher will provide a sticker for your student to affix to their device identifying it as an approved device.

## **Is it required that my child use the school district's wireless network?**

Yes. Students who bring a personal electronic device to school will be required to use the district's guest wireless network - nmguest or nm-net2. Most devices will detect a wireless connection when you are near one. Most of the time devices will ask whether you would like to join a network when prompted. Further instructions will be given to students when the district launches the BYOD initiative this year.

## **How will the District filter Internet access when BYOD is in place?**

With respect to any of its computers with Internet access, and personal devices accessing the district network, the district will follow the guidelines provided by the Children's Internet Protection Act. Our infrastructure was designed around this central requirement.

## **Why can't I use my 3G/4G data plan during school?**

The wireless network provided by Newport-Mesa USD has security and filters that make Internet access safer and more directed for learning. Students are required to use the school-based wifi if they choose to access their devices on campus.

## **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 and collaborate in real time using Google Classroom, research for project-based learning assignments, access websites with curriculum-related content for Genius Hour projects, participate in student blogging, participate in checking for understanding activities using Kahoot, and other approved instructional activities.

**Is there access to school printers from a device brought from home?**

Printers will NOT be available when you log in to the wireless network. Some solutions include saving it to a flash drive or printing it from home or another school computer. Keep in mind that using school printers in the classroom, computer lab or library is at the discretion of the teacher or other school staff.

**Does the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) still apply, even though this is a personal device?**

The Acceptable Use Policy for the Newport Mesa Unified School District remains in effect even when you are using your own device. There are consequences for violating this policy.