

B.Y.O.D. *frequently asked questions*

P e t e r s T o w n s h i p H i g h S c h o o l

I'm concerned that my child will spend much of the day checking Facebook and Twitter using their devices instead of focusing on school work. I also know that these sites are frequently linked to cyber-bullying. How will that be addressed?

In addition to teachers monitoring usage in the classrooms, the content filters used by the District block access to these social media sites via the wireless network while in the building. If access is needed for classroom purposes, teachers may request access to meet those needs. As has been the case in the past, students with devices that access a 3G network will be able to view these sites by bypassing the District's network.

How will data be stored? Will there be any protection against lost files?

Students are encouraged to store their data using GoogleApps or other similar web-based resources. Data may also be stored on the device. As these are personal devices, students will be responsible for storing their own data.

Will any personal information that may be on the device be accessed by the school or others?

The staff will not have access to these personal devices, unless there is permission from the parent. All students are recommended to password protect their devices. The District's tracking will include overall wireless usage and sites that are accessed. Students should treat this as any other "public" wi-fi network and protect personal information.

As these are personal devices, what would prevent a student from bringing and sharing inappropriate or objectionable files on their laptop, phone or iPad?

Unfortunately, these problems are not new to schools - the medium is changing (print to electronic) but the behavior is the same. These issues would be addressed through the standard disciplinary protocol of the school. Details are provided in the student handbook.

As a reminder to both staff and students, a list of cyber offenses and consequences has been posted in the classrooms of the teachers participating in the pilot. While this may be adjusted as we progress through the pilot period, this will serve as a concrete reminder of the District's expectations while the devices are in use.

These devices are valuable items. How will you prevent it from being stolen?

We understand the value of these items and we encourage students to treat them with the utmost care – whether that means keeping the device with them or locking it securely in their locker when not in use. As with any other item, students are responsible for their possessions. Standard building protocols will be followed if a theft occurs.

What about students who do not have these devices to bring to school?

The District maintains more than 400 laptops and desktop computers throughout the high school. Teachers may request to use a lab or to have one of the mobile labs available in their classroom when the technology is necessary for classroom assignments. B.Y.O.D. is an option that is available to the students, but it is not a requirement to complete course work.

How will BYOD work in the Building?

During the first nine week period, a group of teachers will serve as the pilot group for BYOD. The initiative is being rolled out in this manner to ensure that our network can handle the increased load and allow us to make any necessary adjustments.

Teachers not in the pilot group will recognize "BYOD Wednesdays" in their classrooms, where personal devices can be used throughout the building. Parents can explore this new aspect of our High School at the "Technology Playground" that will be offered at the High School's Open House on September 27.