

Los Alamitos Unified School District



Rossmoor Elementary School

3272 Shakespeare Drive • Los Alamitos, California 90720-3842

(562) 799-4520 • Fax (562) 799-4530

Sherry Kropp, Ed. D.
Superintendent

A National Blue Ribbon School
A California Distinguished School
A Gold Ribbon School

Amy Belsha
Principal

May 19, 2017

Dear Third Grade Rossmoor Parents,

We are very excited to announce that we are implementing a 1:1 Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program in 4th grade for the 2017/2018 school year! This amazing home-school partnership affords students the opportunity to become very proficient in the use of digital devices as learning resources prior to entering middle school.

There is no denying the fact that we live in an increasingly digital age. Many researchers are calling our children's generation "digital natives," as they are the first generation to grow up in our current wireless, ultra-connected, high-tech society. To digital natives, the use of technology is as familiar as their native language, while for many of us parents, it is increasingly hard to understand and keep pace with the rapid changes in technology.

I feel that it is important as parents and educators to capitalize on our children's engagement and fluency with technology to enhance their learning and prepare them for what is already a technologically driven world. Both the Common Core Standards (<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/>), which Los Alamitos Unified School District (LAUSD) has fully adopted, and the consortium on 21st Century Learning (<http://www.p21.org/index.php>), stress the importance of digital literacy for our current students. Many educational experts also predict a move to more usage of digital resources/books, and we already know that the new state/national assessments are administered online. These computer-adaptive tests will demand familiarity with the online platform, media literacy, and keyboarding skills.

Next year will be Los Alamitos Unified School District's 1st year operating a district-wide BYOD 1:1 program. Programs were piloted at McGaugh and Hopkinson Elementary Schools over the past 4 years. A 1:1 BYOD program is a classroom, grade level, or school where every child has a device that is fully integrated into his or her instruction throughout the school day. The Chromebook goes home at night to continue and extend the collaborative and meaningful learning.

A BYOD program does not mean that your child will spend their entire day glued to the technology. Instead, the technology is used as a tool to enhance instruction by allowing for active research, communication, the use of multimedia, real-time assessment and feedback via student response systems, and the digitalization of classwork and homework. The teacher still plays a critical role in designing and facilitating learning - albeit via a digital platform.

Next year beginning in fourth grade, students are encouraged to bring their own Chromebook to school to use in the classroom. They will be stored securely in your child's classroom and can safely be transported to and from school in your child's backpack at the end of each day. This would also mean that your incoming 4th grader would participate in the BYOD program as 5th grade student as well. Furthermore, the middle and high schools also expect students to bring their personal devices to school as instructional tools. This investment stretches far beyond Rossmoor Elementary. The Los Alamitos School District has a policy that allows the open use of digital devices on its campuses. **(All parents who send their child with a digital device to school next year will be required to sign a release of liability form.)**

The BYOD program is a home-school partnership. For each classroom, the school provides an enhanced wireless network, Chromecast to display student work, secure storage and charging stations, and a small pod of devices for those who do not have their own device.

For students who participate in BYOD, we recommend purchasing a Chromebook that meets a minimum technology requirement with: 4 GB RAM, 16 GB SSD, 11.5 inch screen, and 802.11ac high-speed wireless. We have found success with the Acer C740 model. **The most important specification is the 802.11ac high-speed wireless connection** which allows your child's home device to connect with our site's wi-fi with protective firewalls.

We are also recommending that you purchase a case for your child's Chromebook. We have partnered with Brick-by-Brick to offer Chromebooks which meet our requirements at a discounted price. Follow this link to for a quick and easy way to purchase your device:

<https://www.brickbybrickfund.org/school/rossmoor-elementary-school>

I look forward to this exciting addition to all the many ways in which our Rossmoor Knights pursue excellence. I hope you were able to attend the parent information night I hosted in January regarding our upcoming BYOD program. Please contact me if you have any additional questions/concerns. In addition, I can set up a time to meet with you if you have questions and were not able to attend the meeting in January.

Warmly,

Ms. Amy Belsha
Rossmoor Elementary Principal
abelsha@losal.org

Some FAQs about the BYOD program:

If I purchase a Chromebook for my child, will they be able to use it in 5th grade? In middle school? Yes, the plan is for Rossmoor 5th graders to begin the BYOD Chromebook program in 2018-19. This would mean that your current 3rd grader would participate in the Chromebook program as a 4th and 5th grader. Starting next school year, the middle and high schools are also implementing a BYOD program for students to bring their devices to school as instructional tools.

What schools already have a BYOD program?

Many schools nationwide have already implemented BYOD programs school wide or at targeted grade levels. In Los Alamitos Unified, Hopkinson and McGaugh began a BYOD program 4 years ago. Mater Dei High School has a school wide 1:1 program and Manhattan Beach Unified has a 1:1 program at its largest middle school. Beginning next year, all schools in the Los Alamitos Unified School District will implement a BYOD program.

How will teachers be supported throughout the transition to a BYOD program?

Teachers will continue to receive training both over the summer and during the 2017-18 school year. It will be critical for teachers to be comfortable and fluent with the technology that students will be using in order to provide appropriate modeling.

What will students who don't bring a Chromebook use in the classroom?

Students who don't bring their own device to school will use a classroom Chromebook. They will not be allowed to take it home or save personal information on it, but it will be theirs to use for all instructional purposes allowing them to fully participate in all classroom activities.

Please return the attached survey to the Rossmoor main office by Wednesday, May 31st. It is critical that we have every 3rd grade parent respond to this survey so that we can make best plans for next school year and be prepared to support every student.

Rossmoor Bring Your Own Chromebook

BYOD Program Survey for Incoming 4th Grade Students

Student's Name _____

Current 3rd Grade Teacher: ☐Deal ☐Decker ☐Hamid ☐Segal

Parent Name: _____

	Yes	No
I attended the Parent Presentation discussing the 1:1 Chromebook program on Jan 26 th .		

Please make a selection in below:

☐ I plan on sending my child with a Chromebook to use at school next year.

☐ I do NOT plan on sending my child to school with a Chromebook and would like him/her to use a school device. I realize that the school device will remain at school and will not come home.

Parent Signature

Date

**Please return this survey to your child's teacher
or the Rossmoor school office by Wednesday, May 31st.**