



LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

IGNITING UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES

ACADEMICS ★ ATHLETICS ★ ACTIVITIES ★ ARTS

Andrew Pulver, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Ryan Weiss-Wright, Ed.D.
Principal

Dear McAuliffe Parents and Families,

We are excited to share about the 1:1 Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program for the 2019-2020 school year. This amazing home-school partnership affords students with the opportunity to become 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. 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 (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/Re/cc/>) and the consortium on 21st Century Learning (<http://www.p21.org/about-us/p21-framework>) stress the importance of digital literacy for our students. We are already experiencing an increase in the usage of digital resources/books, and the state/national assessments are administered online. These computer adaptive tests demand familiarity with the online platform, media literacy, and keyboarding skills. Additional examples can be viewed in the Common Core Standards Technology Skills Scope and Sequence: (<http://bit.ly/ccsstechscope>)

Next year Los Alamitos Unified School District will continue operating a district-wide BYOD program. Proudly, McAuliffe has experienced great success with our BYOD program this school year. In a BYOD program, every child has a Chromebook fully integrated into their instruction during the school day and available at home with them at night to continue the support of 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 where appropriate 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. Teachers continue to play the most critical role in designing and facilitating learning - albeit via a digital platform.

Additional information can be viewed at www.losal.org/byod, as well as through the Acceptable Use & BYOD policy included in the Online Aeries registration for next year.

The BYOD program is a home-school partnership. For each classroom, the school provides an enhanced wireless network, Chromebook secure storage and charging stations, a small pod of Chromebooks for students who do not have their own device, as well as online web security and filtering through Securly (<https://www.securly.com/>). The Securly web filter keeps students safe on the school's network, and can even be set up by a parent to ensure the support extends to Chromebook use at home (<http://bit.ly/losalSecureCB>). The service also includes an app for parents to stay informed on how their student is using the internet.

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. 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 look forward to your student being a part of this exciting addition to all the many ways in which McAuliffe Middle School students pursue excellence. Please contact me if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Warmly,

Ryan Weiss-Wright, Ed.D.
Principal
McAuliffe Middle School
714.816.3320 ext.77103
rweisswright@losal.org