Carroll County Public Schools
Bring Your Own Device
Frequently Asked Questions
Staff

1. **What is Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)?**
   The use of personally owned portable electronic devices is permitted in Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) within the established guidelines. The use of these devices is completely voluntary.

2. **What are the benefits of a BYOD policy?**
   Several school systems who have implemented a BYOD policy have identified numerous benefits to students and staff. These include preparing students for college and career, appealing to the learning styles of 21st century learners, fostering student ownership of their own learning, allowing real time access to information, providing easier access to online instructional materials, supplementing school resources and equipment, and facilitating the transition between home and school resources.

3. **Who is allowed to bring a device to school?**
   All CCPS staff, students in grades 3-12, and post-secondary students are allowed to bring a device to school.

4. **What devices can be brought to school?**
   Portable electronic devices include, but are not limited to, laptops, tablets, netbooks, mobile phones, mp3 players, and eReaders.

5. **How might a student be using his/her device during the school day?**
   Students might use their devices to complete in-class activities, check Home Access Center, complete homework, collaborate in real time, research for projects, access websites with curriculum-related content, keep track of classroom assignments, take notes, compose, and complete other approved instructional activities to enhance learning. During non-instructional time, students may use their devices in accordance with CCPS guidelines, unless otherwise directed by staff members.

6. **What apps or software will be used in the classroom?**
   CCPS does not provide or require apps or software for personally owned devices. Classroom lessons will be designed for the technology that all students have access to.

7. **Can students charge their devices while at school?**
   Personally owned devices should be fully charged before coming to school. Students should not have the expectation that they will be able to charge devices at school. Many classrooms do not have the capacity to handle additional electrical demands for charging personally owned devices.

8. **As a teacher, I do not feel comfortable allowing students to use their own device during class. Am I required to allow students to use their devices?**
   No, but…. The intent of the BYOD policy is to allow students to use their portable electronic devices to support their learning. However, there may be times during class when it would not be optimal to use technology devices. Rather than start off with an outright ban of devices in your classroom, consider starting small and defining the times when students can use their devices to support their learning. You are in charge of the way your class functions. Be sure to communicate your expectations to students and parents.

9. **Am I expected to help troubleshoot problems with my students' devices?**
   No. Neither you nor the CCPS HelpDesk should troubleshoot any technical issues. Students are responsible for their devices.

10. **I have my own laptop and a smart phone that I would like to use at work. Does the new BYOD policy apply to staff members?**
    Yes. But keep in mind that the CCPS Guest network is going to be filtered at the elementary student level for everyone accessing it.

11. **Can an administrator revoke a student's BYOD privilege?**
    Yes. If a student is not following our BYOD guidelines, the Acceptable Use Policy, or teacher direction for the use of a personally owned device, an administrator may revoke the privilege through the regular discipline process.

12. **Am I expected to incorporate more technology into my lessons as a result of the BYOD policy?**
    No. BYOD is not a curricular or instructional strategy. BYOD is simply an option that students may choose to facilitate their learning. When teachers require technology as part of instruction, the teacher must ensure that every student has access to the technology, whether through a student-owned device or a CCPS-provided device. There are no additional instructional expectations put on teachers as a result of BYOD, except to be open to student preference for their own device.

13. **Can I allow students to share personally owned devices as a part of instruction?**
    No. School staff shall not direct or encourage students to allow others students to use their devices as part of instruction.

Rev: 9/2015