



Dear Parents/Guardians,

William A. Fraser Middle School is launching our school wide Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) initiative for the 2021/22 school year. We are asking families to consider the option of having their child bring a Chromebook or Laptop to school. Students in Grades 6, 7, and 8 will be able to bring a laptop or Chromebook to use for educational purposes. Having ongoing access to technology will help your child develop greater independence, increase engagement, and develop skills required to thrive in the 21st Century. Our school recognizes that learning is personalized, active and interactive and that expanding the BYOD program adds value to the learning.

Students will bring their Chromebook or laptop each day to work on classroom activities online. Students are expected to take the Chromebook or laptop home each evening for security purposes and to make the Chromebook or laptop available to other family members (if that is the wish of the family). A small number of school district provided Chromebooks will be available for use during class time. If you have a device that's awesome, students will make excellent use out of it in the classroom; if you child does not have a device, we will endeavor to find a way to provide access to a device during class time.

Chromebooks are available at various retail stores. For example, Staples, which has a warranty program for BYOD that some families have purchased. Other options include, but are not restricted to, BestBuy, Mikes Computer Shop, London Drugs, and Costco. There is not a specific model of Chromebook that is recommended. Any new Chromebook will work well for the purposes of the Fraser Middle BYOD program.

Thank you for working with us to support the Bring Your Own Device program.

Bring Your Own Device (Laptop) Benefits:

- improved access to online resources and digital tools (students access up-to-date non-fiction materials 2:1 vs print)
- enhanced opportunities to learn appropriate digital communication and citizenship skills (textbooks are being replaced with digital techbooks including audio, video, virtual fieldtrips and print materials)
- additional opportunities to create digital projects (including skills like collaboration, creativity, meta-cognitive thinking etc.)
- access to assistive technology (including read aloud, differentiated materials based on student reading level etc.)
- ability to foster engagement, investment, focus, independence, and accommodate multiple abilities, and learning styles
- use of digital platforms means learning can be accessed anytime, anywhere and is never lost or misplaced
- ability to collaborate during class time on digital presentations and documents (including use of google classroom, web apps, and online media)
- increased ability to use teachable moments and allow students to follow interests at their fingertips

Device (Laptop) Information and Requirements

In order to participate in this project, students are asked to bring a Chromebook (or basic laptop) to school that meets the following minimum requirements:

- Chromebook is the preferred option (it is light, cloud-based, holds an 8-hour charge and it is inexpensive compared to a laptop or MacBook).
- Windows or Mac laptop not more than 4 or 5 years old (Windows 7 operating system or newer; Mac 10.6 operating system or newer).
- A charging power cord and battery that can hold a charge for at least 3 hours.
- Wireless internet capability.
- Case or sleeve for protecting the laptop when it is inside a backpack or bag to increase the lifespan of the computer.
- If you are going to purchase a device, PLEASE save your dollars and purchase a Chromebook (\$250-300) versus Laptop (\$500), MacBook (\$1000).

We look forward to the educational opportunities that BYOD will bring. Participation in this initiative is voluntary. Your child will not be left out if they do not have a device. Fraser Middle will continue to provide access to school owned technology.

If you would like your child to participate, sign the Electronic Device Consent Form and complete the Device Registration Form.

Sincerely,

Dean Johnston