

May 6, 2016

Dear Families,

This past Monday, approximately 100 parents participated in our Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) parent info session at the high school auditorium. We had good conversation during the Q&A session and we hope the majority of attendees left feeling better informed about the work and plan to date and with an awareness of expectations and next steps.

Device guidelines are below, and suitable devices are readily available from approximately \$200 for a Chromebook to \$1000 or more for a laptop. We are committed to equity and making sure every student has a suitable device so even though the price range is broad, please be assured that a \$200 Chromebook is a perfectly good choice and is what our middle and high school students have been using. Please also be aware that there are a lot of very inexpensive netbooks and Android tablets that may be fine for entertainment but don't deliver the same value as learning tools that chromebooks, iPads, and laptops do. To help you avoid disappointment we suggest that families wanting to minimize the expense go with a chromebook.

We are developing an online guide to provide support for answering questions about device selection and we are working with the Westborough Education Technology Fund - <http://westboroughetf.org/> - an independent group within the community, to provide purchasing options and packages for families that want a simple, guided process for selecting their device.

Thank you for your attention and please stay tuned. More detailed information is available on our 1:1 website - <http://www.westboroughk12.org/curriculum/technology> - which we will continue to update and our next communications will include more device selection support details along with an online form for letting us know your plans.

DEVICE GUIDELINES:

For a consistently good student experience we feel it is necessary for students to bring devices that are able to access the curriculum through Google tools, have screens and keyboards (physical or virtual) that are large enough, have long enough battery life, and are secure and up to date. For those reasons student devices must meet the following criteria:

- Laptop/netbook/chromebook/tablet w/physical or virtual keyboard
- 9.7" or better color screen
- 802.11 n/ac Wifi capable
- Recent and up to date operating system that is authorized & licensed (not jail-broken, rooted, pirated, counterfeit, etc.)
- App or full feature browser capable of accessing Google Drive/Docs/Sheets/Slides/Classroom/Gmail, streaming videos from YouTube/Vimeo/other major sites, viewing PDFs
- Chrome browser

- Can operate for at least 2 hours between charges
- Is protected from malware and viruses
- Is free from illegal and inappropriate material

Sincerely,

BYOD Project Team:

Amber Bock, Superintendent

Daniel Mayer, Assistant Superintendent

Jon Green, Director of Technology

Brian Callaghan, WHS Principal

http://westboroughk12.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_35277/File/Tech/WHSBYODfollow-upmessage.pdf