

## Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) FAQs

As Parish works toward meeting our strategic initiatives, we know questions will arise. We are committed to keeping you informed and will keep a dynamic list of FAQs on this site. If you have a question that you don't see below or need further assistance, contact Parish's Instructional Tech Team at [iTech@parishepiscopal.org](mailto:iTech@parishepiscopal.org).

### Which grade levels are affected by the BYOD initiative?

The BYOD model initially started with 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Starting in January 2017, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are also required to bring a device to school each day.

### I need to purchase a computing device for my child. What should I get, and how much will it cost?

You are free to purchase any device you wish as long as it meets the basic requirements listed below. Netbooks typically range from \$250 to \$450, and laptops can range from \$500 to over \$2000 depending on the brand and configuration.

### Which operating system should the device run?

Most of Parish's computers run Windows operating systems. The decision for your child's device is a matter of personal preference. Laptops can run either Windows or Macintosh operating systems as long as the General Requirements listed below are met. Chromebooks do not meet Parish's minimum requirements for devices. See additional details on tablets and eReaders below.

### What are the minimum requirements for a mobile computing device?

#### General Requirements:

- Windows or Macintosh operating system
- Access to the Internet via Wi-Fi
- Ability to display Adobe Flash content
- Minimum of 4-hour battery life
- Productivity suite (Microsoft Office, OpenOffice, Apple's iWork Suite, etc.)
- Virus, malware and spyware protection (current versions with automatic updates)

#### Additional Recommendations:

- External hard drive or flash drive for backing up files (learning to perform regular backups and restore from a backup are important skills)
- Additional AC power adapter (if you want one for school and one for home)
- High-capacity battery if available
- Headphones or ear buds (for private listening)
- Protective laptop computer sleeve or backpack with a laptop compartment for increased protection

### Can my child use a tablet or eReader?

Devices such as iPads, Android tablets, Windows RT tablets, as well as eReaders such as the Nook and Kindle, generally do not meet Parish's device requirements. While these devices have a solid place in the computing market, they do not support the full range of specific classroom applications. Students are permitted to bring and use these secondary devices at the discretion of the faculty, but they should have and be prepared to use their primary device at any time during the school day.

### **Which software does the device need to have?**

- Virus, malware and spyware protection are required for all computers. Free versions of these products are available for all operating systems.
- Parish uses Microsoft Office 2010 on all school-owned computers, and all students should have a productivity suite that includes applications for word processing, spreadsheets and presentations (e.g., Microsoft Office, OpenOffice, Apple's iWorks suite, etc.).
- A web browser (e.g., Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari, Google Chrome) is required. Google Chrome is strongly recommended for all student devices.
- The Tech Department recommends utilizing free, inexpensive or open-source software for other computing needs.

### **What if my child needs an expensive application like Photoshop or other specialized software?**

Applications that are needed for high-end computer graphics, engineering and other specialized uses will be available in computer labs and other locations on campus, so it is not necessary to purchase these. Furthermore, many of the functions found in these applications are available in open-source software. Your child should check with his/her teacher about using an open-source alternative for class projects and homework.

### **Is the device required to have an Internet filter?**

Parish does not require students to have a filter installed on their own device. Parents may choose to install Internet filtering software, although the Tech Department will not troubleshoot it. While at school, personally-owned devices will connect through the same content filter as all school-owned computers. This fact, combined with our strong Acceptable Use Policy and consistent instruction to students, aids us in preparing students to be good digital citizens.

### **Is my child expected to use his/her computing device both at school and at home?**

Yes. One of the goals of the BYOD program is ubiquitous access, meaning students have access to learning tools at school and at home. Some projects and homework assignments will require students to use their computing device, while others will not.

### **How can my child's device be protected from damage, loss or theft during the school day?**

1. We recommend placing an identifying tag on the device, including name and year of graduation.
2. Students may store their computing device in their locker or keep it with them in their backpack or book bag. The device is at risk of damage or theft when not locked up or in their possession. (Please note that the only locks allowed on lockers are those purchased at the PAWS Spirit Store.)
3. We recommend a sleeve to protect the device while in backpacks or book bags.
4. It is recommended that parents contact their homeowners insurance provider to see what coverage is available for mobile computing devices when used both at home and away from home. Additionally, a few insurance companies that provide coverage specifically for these devices include the following:
  - Student Insurance Partners ([www.studentinsurancepartners.com](http://www.studentinsurancepartners.com))
  - Safeware ([www.safeware.com](http://www.safeware.com))
  - Square Trade ([www.squaretrade.com](http://www.squaretrade.com))

*(Parish Episcopal School is not affiliated with these providers, nor does the School endorse one provider over another. These providers are given as resource examples only, and the School encourages families to conduct independent research when choosing the right provider for their needs.)*

### **Will computing devices be used in every class?**

Whether or not technology is used in class on any given day depends entirely upon the teacher's judgment about the best tools to use for instruction. Some material lends itself to computer use while other material does not. Although a computing device is a powerful tool for engaging in scholarly work, it is not the only tool that teachers use to deliver high-quality instruction.