



Miamisburg City Schools

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Initiative

(with Requirements and Recommendations)

The BYOD Initiative

Miamisburg City Schools “Bring Your Own Device” (BYOD) initiative will allow students and staff the opportunity to bring in their own mobile computing devices to further aid in the educational process. The goal is to extend and expand anytime, anywhere learning in the school and to help integrate a greater variety of resources and technology into learning. The initiative will allow students to use familiar technology to grant them quicker, easier access to the information they need to succeed in the classroom. Specifically, this initiative will allow students to bring almost any mobile computing device to school that will allow greater opportunities for learning. The device may be a laptop, netbook, tablet, e-reader, smart phone, or any other device that offers wireless Internet accessibility to information. *

The BYOD initiative is not a requirement! Students will continue to have access to school owned equipment when they do not have their own, choose not to bring their own, or do not have access to their own device. Students will not be penalized for not bringing their own devices, and school owned devices will be available any time technology would benefit the educational process or grant access to needed information.

Miamisburg City Schools encourages students and staff to use “the cloud” in order to prevent being tied to any proprietary hardware or software. The cloud allows anytime, anywhere access to files, web applications, and information regardless of the device you are using. Miamisburg City Schools offers Google Apps to students** and staff for word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, communications, and group collaboration which is accessible from most any Internet-capable device.

BYOD Requirements and Recommendations

While many of our students already own mobile computing devices, some parents have contacted us to ask, “If I wanted to purchase a mobile computing device for my child, what would you recommend?” Because family and individual student needs differ, this can be a complex question to answer. However, there are some general specifications that can be considered by everyone, so we have created this document to give you some basic guidance.

** Currently only for High School and Middle School Students starting 2013-2014 School Year

*** Some Apple devices do not support Flash technology, but could still be used with certain limitations.

The ideal computing device for school use:

1. Is lightweight and sturdy;
2. Is in a protective carrying case;
3. Has many hours of battery power and easy options for recharging;
4. Has wireless capabilities and appropriate Internet browser software;
5. Offers sufficient storage;
6. Is flexible, with USB ports and other options for expansion or updating.

Please consider the following specifications for any new purchases:

- Modern Internet Browser Supporting HTML5 and Javascript (IE 9 or higher, Chrome, Firefox)
- Supports Flash Codec Technology (<http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>)***
- Size and Readability of the Screen (9.5” or larger screens are preferable)
- Long Battery Life (to stay charged through a typical school day)
- USB Port Availability (for exporting, backing up, or storing data files to a USB drive)
- Operating Systems: Windows XP SP3/Vista/7/8 or higher, Apple OS X 10.6.8 or higher, Ubuntu Linux 12.04 or higher, Apple iOS 6 or higher (for iPad, iPod, or iPhone), Android OS 4.0 or higher (for Android based phones or tablets), Chrome OS 19 or higher (for Google Chromebook Devices)
- Hardware: Supports Wireless 802.11/n and WPA2 Access Standards, Laptops/Netbooks/MacBooks a dual core processor of 2GHz or greater with 2GB of memory or greater and 64GB of hard drive space or greater is a good baseline. E-readers (e.g. Kindle Fire) should have color screens and full Internet browsing capability.
- Software (recommended but not required): Antivirus Software (such as Microsoft Security Essentials, Avira Free Antivirus, ClamWin, ClamX), Java, Office Suite (MS Office 2007, Apple iWork, or the free LibreOffice)

If you are considering purchasing a new computing device, it’s important to keep in mind how the device might be used in the future. For example, High School Juniors and Seniors who plan to continue to college or career school may want to contact an advisor from that school to seek recommendations specific to their technology requirements.

** Miamisburg City School District will not be responsible for any loss, theft, damage, vandalism, hardware or software maintenance or support to student or staff owned equipment. Students, parents, and staff are strongly encouraged to take appropriate precautions to prevent any loss or damages, and will be required to provide their own device hardware or software maintenance and support.*

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