

Gaston County Schools
Bring Your Own Device Program
Mt. Holly Middle School School

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As new technologies continue to change the world in which we live, they also provide many new and positive educational benefits for classroom instruction. Therefore, we have decided to implement Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) at our school. In this initiative, our students are encouraged to bring their own wireless devices to school to assist with their learning experiences. This document provides some clarification, some precautions, an explanation of the Student Policies and a contract which we will adhere to as we establish this new program within our school system. The BYOD Agreement must be signed and returned to in order to participate in the program. Please note that students who cannot bring in outside technology will be able to access and utilize the school's equipment or be paired with students to cooperate on technology projects. No student will be left out of instructional opportunities.

Definition of "Devices"

For purposes of BYOD, "Devices" means privately owned wireless and/or portable electronic hand held equipment that includes, but is not limited to, existing and emerging mobile communication systems and smart technologies, portable internet devices, handheld entertainment systems or portable information technology systems that can be used for wireless Internet access.

Digital Citizenship

As the BYOD program begins, teachers will be reviewing the acceptable use policy, providing instruction for students about appropriate use of various devices and laying a foundation of what digital citizenship is all about. Parents are strongly encouraged to investigate and discuss internet safety with their children.

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Student Guidelines

Electronic Devices

Use of certain electronic devices is determined on a ***per class, per teacher basis***. Students **must** follow the directions of the school administration and classroom teachers as to when/where use of personal devices is permitted. Permissibility of various devices is as follows:

Acceptable Devices and Behaviors

1. Non-disruptive devices are defined as electronic devices primarily used for educational purposes.

2. The categories of non-disruptive devices are (a) laptops, (b) netbooks, (c) tablets, (d) eReaders, (e) iTouch devices and (f) smartphones.
3. These devices may be used during classroom instruction and in other places/at other times as permitted by school administration.

Disruptive Devices and Behaviors

1. The misuse of permissible electronic devices in a manner distracting to other students or school personnel is not allowed. The misuse of electronic devices includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Use of any electronic device in a classroom or other area the school not authorized by school personnel,
 - b. Violation of Gaston County Schools' Responsible Use Policy,
 - c. Listening to video or audio without headphones/earbuds or loud enough for others to hear.
 - d. Communication by voice or text during school hours (unless under direct supervision of teacher).

Mobile Phones

1. Unless directed by a teacher, use of mobile phones for any voice or text communication is not permitted during school hours, and should only be used within a classroom. Otherwise, mobile phones must be turned off or muted during school hours.
2. Mobile phones may possess advanced functions including Internet access, eReader, and video/audio functions. Use of these functions during classroom instruction is at the discretion of each individual teacher.
3. Use of cameras on non-disruptive devices and cell phones, to take still pictures or video, is not permitted on school grounds unless under the direction and supervision of the classroom teacher or appropriate school personnel.

Consequences for inappropriate use of electronic devices

Inappropriate use of electronic devices will be dealt with by school administration following the Responsible Use Policy and the Student Code of Conduct.

Internet Connection

Only the filtered wireless network provided by the school may be accessed during school hours. In other words, personal internet connected devices are not permitted to gain access to outside internet sources through individual 3G or 4G providers. The Gaston County Schools connection will filter content. Students are required to have a signed Responsible Use Agreement on file.