

Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT)



FORRESTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Pilot Program 2016 – 2017 School Year

At the March, 2016 Board of Education meeting, a “Bring Your Own Technology” (BYOT) pilot program was formally approved for Forreston High School students for the 2016 - 2017 school year. This means that students in grades 9 - 12 will be allowed to bring their own electronic devices to school to use for instructional purposes, provided the enclosed *Technology Response Form* is signed by both students and parents.

In order to plan for this pilot program, EACH student will need to determine if they will participate in the BYOT program *or* use a district-owned device during the 2016 – 2017 school year. Please indicate your choice by completing the enclosed *Technology Response Form* and returning this form by Friday, April 15th to the High School Office.

To help your discussions at home, please review the following QUESTIONS & ANSWERS, providing more detailed information regarding the program.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Why is the district piloting “Bring Your Own Technology” (BYOT) at Forreston High School?

A BYOT program allows students to use technology they are most familiar with and have readily accessible throughout their daily schedules. Students in BYOT programs demonstrate greater responsibility and care for the devices and eliminate duplicate devices.

2. Is this a required program?

No, this is an *optional* program next year for students in grades 9 - 12.

3. What are the technology device options for the 2016 – 2017 school year?

Students may continue to use a Chromebook provided by Forreston High School *or* bring their own technology device to school.

4. What if my child does not participate in the BYOT program?

BYOT is an *optional* program. Chromebooks will still be provided to students wishing to access district-owned technology. However, students utilizing district technology will be assessed an annual \$35 Technology Fee with registration.

5. When are students allowed to use devices?

Students will be allowed to use their own devices or district-issued devices during instructional time as well as non-instructional time, as appropriate. Devices will not be allowed in private areas, such as locker rooms or bathroom facilities.

6. What types of devices may be brought to school under BYOT?

Any mobile device that can connect to the district wireless network is acceptable under BYOT, including smart phones, iPods, iPads, Chromebooks, tablets, or other laptops.

7. Who pays for BYOT?

Parents pay for and provide the student device under the BYOT program.

8. If I am thinking of purchasing a device for my child, what should I consider?

There is no recommended device endorsed by the district.

9. If my student participates in BYOT, are there certain programs/apps they will be required to pre-install?

Yes, there are FREE programs/apps that need to be installed on each student's device for instructional purposes. These free apps are available from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. Please be sure to install the following prior to the first day of school: Skyward, Google Classroom, Google Docs, Google Sheets, Google Slides, and Google Drive. For assistance with installation please contact Mr. Hartman in the technology office.

10. May a device be purchased through the Forrestville Valley School District?

Yes, a device may be purchased through the district. Three technology options will be available and offered to parents to purchase at the same price point offered to the district through bulk ordering, resulting in a savings to families. Device options include: Chromebooks, laptops, and MacBooks. However, devices are not required to be purchased through the district.

11. Will I be able to see each of these device options prior to purchasing? When does a decision need to be made on purchasing a device through the Forrestville Valley School District?

Models will be available for demonstration on Wednesday, April 13th from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the Forreston High School Library. Parents interested in purchasing a device through the district will need to place an order with full payment received by the High School Office no later than Friday, May 20th to be included in the bulk order rate. Students will receive their purchased device from the technology office when school starts in August.

12. How will stolen or damaged BYOT devices be handled?

The district is not responsible for stolen or damaged devices under BYOT.

13. If something is wrong with my child's BYOT device, who fixes it?

The district is not able to support each individual BYOT student device. The parent is responsible for any and all repairs.

14. How will students accessing inappropriate websites during school hours be handled?

All students participating in the BYOT program and using district-issued devices are required to access the district network system through the free wireless system. The district system allows for proper internet filtering. Students are not allowed to use individual data plans during school hours. Students not utilizing the district network system will be subject to student discipline as listed in the Parent/Student Handbook.

15. Who should I contact for questions?

Mr. Hartman, Director of Technology, may be contacted at 815-938-2195 or thartman@fvdistrict221.org.