Parkland School Division
TECHNOLOGY FOR LEARNING - A Parent Resource

Within Parkland School Division, staff and students use the power of technology in a purposeful and meaningful way to deepen understanding and demonstrate learning. PSD believes that moving towards a 1:1 technology environment will promote a culture of seamless integration with technology, provide authentic learning opportunities, and remove barriers. This opportunity allows for staff and students to utilize both school-owned and personally owned mobile devices (such as laptops, netbooks, tablets, smartphones) that will access all the resources necessary for teaching and learning while developing digital citizenship and social responsibility.

Our purpose is to prepare, engage and inspire our students to be their best in a quickly changing global community through:
- teaching teamwork and collaboration skills
- fostering creativity
- promoting critical thinking and self-assessment
- improving student access to technology and integration into the curriculum
- raising achievement levels
- training students to be good digital citizens by connecting with each other and the world, so they are able to live responsibly in today's digital world.

Does my child have to bring in their own device?
PSD students are not required to bring in their own devices (BYOD). The school will have other devices for use which may or may not be assigned to the student, their home classroom or a specific classroom they are working in. What is important is ensuring that when a student brings their personally owned device to class, they will be motivated to link to the educational opportunities the device enables them to access. As well, teachers and students will have ongoing conversations about recommended educational applications for knowledge acquisition, creation and collaboration using technology.

How do I know when my child is ready for BYOD?
A student is ready when they can easily explain how the technology works and how it can assist them in their learning. Specific standards are already set through the current "Responsible Use of Technology Agreement - Students" form that is signed annually by each student in PSD.

If you are interested in taking part in the optional BYOD Initiative, Parkland School Division has compiled some guidelines for appropriate devices. We do not endorse any specific mobile device; we merely recommend that it have the following capabilities:
- internet connectivity (through Wi-Fi or other means)
- ability to connect to Google Apps for Education
- a keyboard – integrated, Bluetooth or touch screen
- word processing capability (should be able to produce more than 1 paragraph)
- 6 hours of battery life
- ability to integrate images, video and sound

What are the expectations for a BYOD learning environment?
Teachers will work with students to explore, create, think critically, collaborate and imagine various opportunities to make learning exciting and relevant with various kinds of media, materials and resources.

Through Inspiring Education, Alberta Education has identified several policy shifts needed to support students to become engaged thinkers and ethical citizens, with an entrepreneurial spirit. One of those shifts requires students to use technology to support the creation and sharing of knowledge, as recognized in the Learning and Technology Policy Framework (2013).

Where the world opens up

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