Hugh Sutherland School

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Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Fact Sheet for Parents and Students

- **BYOD** - is quickly becoming the norm for many classrooms across the province and in our school division. Allowing personal devices into our classrooms helps personalize and enhance learning for our students.   Students also develop a stronger sense of digital citizenship. **We encourage students to bring their own device and begin learning proper digital citizenship. At HSS, we are asking parents of students from grades 3-6 and 7-8 that if you are considering purchasing a device for your child, please take the following into consideration:**
- **Google for Education -** is already our common platform for our students and staff. It's easy to use and cost effective. Many students and staff are already using it because they have access to amazing tools anytime, from anyplace. Here are 3 things we would like all students, parents, and staff to know about Google for Education:
    - ➔ Google for Education is an internet based application that provides safe and secure access to applications such as word processing, document sharing and storage, video, audio, presentations, spreadsheets, and email.
    - ➔ Chinook's Edge School Division has been using Google for Education for the past 7 years. Like most school divisions in Alberta, we have a legally binding contract with Google to ensure that student and staff information remains safe and secure according to our Information Security Procedures.
    - ➔ Student's last names are not used or displayed. For example, Jane Ethel Doe's username will be jed4321@cesd73.ca and her profile will list her as Jane Unknown.
- **Chromebooks** - are the devices that Hugh Sutherland School is recommending for our BYOD classrooms. Here are 5 things we'd like all students, parents, and staff to know about Chromebooks:
    - ➔ Chromebooks are, on average, approximately one-third of the cost of traditional laptops. They serve as a simple and affordable option for teachers and learners. Chromebooks operate on the Chrome operating system and are designed to be used while connected wirelessly to the Internet.
    - ➔ Chromebooks support the majority of web-based applications, and allow students access to thousands of free apps through Google Chrome.   Students safely store their data remotely using Google Drive. Students can print at school through Google Print.
    - ➔ Although Chromebooks do not allow the downloading of specific games or software, (i.e. Microsoft Office), they offer thousands of viable alternatives in Google Apps for Education.
    - ➔ Chromebooks can be purchased through many local retailers - both in stores and online. Common examples of Chromebook manufacturers are Samsung, Dell, and HP.
- **Other Laptops and Tablets** - can also be used in our BYOD classrooms as long as they meet the following basic standards:
    - ❏ 2G of RAM - Webcam - QWERTY U.S. Keyboard or keyboard function.
    - ❏ Compatibility with both 802.11n and 802.11ac wireless networks.
    - ❏ Battery life of 5 hours or longer - as charging stations are limited in classrooms.
    - ❏ Capability of running Chrome browser.
- **Participation in BYOD** - is optional as we recognize that some students may choose not to bring a device to school. For projects that require the use of technology, school-owned devices will be made available. We are strongly encouraging students to bring their own device, but by no means is it mandatory. If you have questions or concerns about how the device may be used, please talk to the classroom teacher, Mr. Nielsen and/or Mr. Thomson.
- **Security, Maintenance, and Charging -** of personal devices is the student's responsibility.
- **Responsible Use of Technology** - remains a focus in our schools. As such all students and staff are expected to follow the expectations outlined in our **CESD Technology Responsible Use** document (link under the technology section of our website). Additional classroom procedures for personal devices may also be developed by teachers in BYOD Classrooms.

If you have any questions, please contact Dean Nielsen by email dnielsen@cesd73.ca for grades 3-6 and Laura Lee Hrabok by email lhrabok@cesd73.ca for grades 7-8.