

Cohasset Public Schools BYOD Technology Information for Cohasset Middle and High School



A BYOD model of technology integration is designed to have students bring to class everyday a personally owned device. When a lesson requires access to technology, students will utilize their own devices.

Classrooms are equipped with 3 district owned Chromebooks for use when and if a student forgets theirs. While Smartphones are very valuable and beneficial for lots of things, they are not considered an efficient tool for completing assignments. Laptops are the recommended device. After two years with the implementation of BYOD in grades 6-12, we have found that iPads do not meet the classroom needs of our students and are therefore **not** recommended. It should also be recognized that expensive, high-end devices are not necessary in an environment where access is cloud based and Google oriented. In cases where families have a financial need the district has developed a loaner program to support these families and their students. Participation in this loaner program for students who do not have access to a laptop or tablet will follow the same guidelines as for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. Families should contact the school, for assistance in this area.

Recommendations for BYOD appropriate devices:

- Chromebooks are the best device because:
 - More cost effective, generally one can be purchased in the \$200 range;
 - ChromeOS includes built-in security against viruses, malware and other cyber-infections, and automatic updates;
 - Impressive performance;
 - Fully compatible with the CPS curriculum;
 - Battery life that meets school time needs.
- iPads are not a beneficial device. After two years with BYOD in the school, we have found that iPads are not able provide the functionality needed to meet the educational needs of our students.
- When purchasing a device, it is advisable for it to have the following specifications:
 - 4 GB RAM
 - 16GB Drive
 - 9.5" Screen or larger
 - Minimum of 6-hour battery life
 - Wifi connectivity
 - Chrome Browser
- Other considerations are:
 - Durable carry case with identification

The district hopes that this will be a helpful guide to families as they prepare students for BYOD at Cohasset Middle School and Cohasset High School.