



# Dutchtown Elementary School

## Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT)

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### ***What is BYOT?***

Bring Your Own Technology is a program which allows students to use their own technology at specified times during the day to enhance the learning experience. Examples of the types of technology which can be used are: laptops, eBook readers, iPads, Smartphones, etc.

#### ***Why is DES implementing BYOT?***

Today's students have been called "digital natives." Technology is an integral part of how they communicate, seek knowledge, and process information. DES is committed to helping students and teachers maximize learning by taking advantage of relevant technology, while at the same time ensuring that we help students become good consumers of information, achieve media and technology literacy, and maintain a safe and ethical digital environment. Through BYOT, we expect students to experience expanded just-in-time access to resources that will enhance classroom learning, read and annotate course content electronically, create digital presentations, and collaborate with other students.

#### ***Does educational research support the connection between the use of technology and improved student achievement?***

Education researcher Robert Marzano says, "Applied effectively, technology not only increases student learning, understanding, and achievement but also augments motivation to learn, encourages collaborative learning, and supports the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills." The power of student use of technology, however, does not really lie in the device itself. The power is in what the device helps the student do. For instance, the Mid-Continent Regional Education Laboratory (McREL) identified 246 separate studies that demonstrate that the use of nonlinguistic representations has a very strong positive effect on student learning. For years teachers have struggled to find ways to incorporate this strategy. Digital devices offer a huge array of resources to meet this need—from streaming video to interactive presentations.

#### ***Is the purchase of a computer or other device required?***

No. Students are not required to purchase any device. They are encouraged to bring their own technology to school.

#### ***My device will not connect to the network. Can Dutchtown staff help me?***

Dutchtown personnel are not responsible for troubleshooting personal devices. Resources may not be available to help you connect to the guest network on your campus. Seeking out help from other students may be a viable solution.

#### ***My personal device does not give me a prompt to choose a wireless network, what should I do?***

Check the settings menu of your device to see if there is a network access icon. Select this icon and choose the guest network wireless ID from the list. Be sure to consult the owner's manual of your device to get exact directions for accessing wireless networks.

#### ***What happens if a student's device is damaged or lost?***

The district will not be responsible for damaged or lost technology. Keeping track of the device's serial number, model, and type at home is a good idea. Many vendors of digital devices offer insurance against theft or breakage, and tracking features can be installed in many of the devices as well. Theft or vandalism of any kind should be reported to the school administrator so he or she can take appropriate steps.

***What if I don't have a personal electronic device to bring to school?***

It is not mandatory for students to bring personal devices to school. When electronic devices are used to enhance learning in the classroom, students without a personal device will be provided access to an appropriate district owned digital device when available.

**What happens when a teacher feels that the use of a digital device is inappropriate for a particular activity or time period?**

The teacher has the final say on activities and procedures in the classroom. Students will be expected to comply with all teacher directions regarding digital devices.

**I have a data plan from a provider (AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, etc.). Can my child access the internet through that plan without using the school's server: BYOT?**

No. All students are to use the DES BYOT login to access the internet, as required by the Henry County Schools BYOT Parent Agreement. Students should not access the internet through a cellular provider while on campus.

Suggested technology that students could bring:

Laptop

Netbook

iPod

iPad

Tablets

Nook

Nook Tablet

Kindle

Kindle Fire

DSi

PSVita

Smart Phones

iPhone

Any device that could do internet, video, digital photos, notes, e-books, apps, etc.