



Dear Readington Middle School Families,

We are excited to announce that the Bring Your Own Device is available for all middle school students! We recognize that many of our students already possess computing devices (Laptops, iPads, Kindles, etc.) that could greatly enhance their learning experience in the classroom. Additionally, as our students transition to high school, they will be permitted to bring their own devices to class. Allowing our middle school students to have this same opportunity assists with the transition to high school and teaches them the appropriate use of and etiquette for technology in a classroom setting. Teachers will allow students, at their discretion, to use computing devices in their classroom for certain instructional lessons. The use of such devices will be held to the same standard as existing school issued devices. You and your child have read and signed off on the school district Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) in the beginning of the school year. There is also language in our Parent/Student Handbook about the use of electronic devices that will now be obsolete due to permission being granted to bring these devices to school. Please review that policy carefully as we move forward with expanding technology use to support the instructional environment. Also, be aware that the school is not responsible for loss, theft or damage of personal equipment. We implore you to caution your child about safe keeping of his/her device in a locked locker or area during the times it is not in his/her possession - as well as safe keeping during bus transportation to and from school.

Please note that we are not requiring students to bring in their own device. We currently have equipment for teacher and student use that we will still provide. We are opening up this opportunity to students and teachers who have their own devices that they feel comfortable with and will enhance their teaching/learning experience!

Students will have opportunities available throughout the year to have their devices registered.

Below are some frequently asked questions about BYOD. Please take some time to review them. Should you have a question concerning BYOD that is not addressed, please email BYOD@readington.k12.nj.us

Why Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) in the Readington Township School District?

The Readington Township School District believes that 21st Century instruction is necessary for 21st Century learning. Providing students with an environment that fosters and encourages this belief is part of our core values. All members of our learning community hold the responsibility to value technology and achieve technological proficiency to prepare our students for future jobs, which currently may not exist. Schools must challenge students with rigorous, personalized academic experiences, foster innovation and creativity, and embrace emerging technologies. In a 21st Century learning environment, students actively engage in a cohesively integrated curriculum, access information and apply it in solving authentic problems.

Our students are living in a world where they have immediate access to information anytime and anywhere. Many students have personally owned devices in their pockets that can be used to allow them to learn in their own style and at their own pace. With digital learning, every student can access high quality and rigorous instruction in every subject, thereby, maximizing their opportunity for success in school and beyond. A decade ago this was just a dream. Today, it can be a reality.

What is the “D” in BYOD?

For the purposes of BYOD, “Device” means a privately owned wireless and/or portable electronic piece of equipment that includes laptops, netbooks, tablets/slates, iPod Touches, cell and smart phones.

What School Board Policies should I be aware of?

There are several Readington Board of Education policies that are relevant to students' use of technology. All policies are available for review through our district website. These policies listed below will be of special consideration to families:

- Policy 2360 Use of Technology
- Policy 2361 Acceptable Use of Computer Network/Computers and Resources
- Policy 2363 Pupil Use of Privately-Owned Technology
- Policy 5500 Expectations for Pupil Conduct
- Policy 5512 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying
- Policy 5516 Use of Electronic Communication and Recording Devices

What if my device is stolen or damaged? What recourse can I take?

Students bring electronic communication devices to school at their own risk, just like any other personal items. The district will not be held responsible if an electronic device or other item is lost, stolen or misplaced. Some devices have a device locator; it is recommended that you enable this feature if possible.

Bringing your own devices to school can be useful, however some risks are involved as well. It is always a good idea to record the device's serial number to have in case of theft. It is also **strongly recommended** that students label all devices, power cords, etc. with their full name for easy recognition. The Readington Township School District is not responsible for the theft of a device, nor are they responsible for any damage done to the device while at school. Any time a theft occurs, you should contact a school administrator to make him/her aware of the offense.

Must students use the School wireless? Can they use their own 3G or 4G service?

Students with a personally owned device need to use the guest wireless network. Using personal data service is not permitted.

I am bringing a device to school for instructional purposes. Will I have access to things I normally do with district equipment?

You will have access to any of the web-based software the district currently uses (databases, library search tools etc.) Software may run differently on different devices for varying reasons.

Am I required to add additional software (virus protection, tracking device, etc.) to my child's device?

The guest network at RPS_BYOD is an open network. You should take measures to protect your devices, including updated Anti-Virus and Malware protection.

Windows Computers

During the initial BYOD connection process, our Technology support team will help verify that your antivirus software is installed and updated on any Windows laptop devices. Microsoft offers a free antivirus program for Windows 7 computers:

Microsoft Security Essentials which can be download here:

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows/security-essentials-download>

Windows 8 computers have antivirus and malware protection already built in.

Apple MacBook Computers

Sophos Anti-Virus Free is a free antivirus program for Mac's which can be download here:

<http://www.sophos.com/en-us/products/free-tools/sophos-antivirus-for-mac-home-edition.aspx>

Apple and Android mobile devices:

Lookout is a free mobile security device application and locator which can be download here:

<https://www.lookout.com/>

Please ensure sure your device is not sharing any personal files, folders or applications over the network.

I don't have my own electronic communication device to bring to school. Will I be penalized or miss out on instruction?

No, it is not mandatory for students to bring a device, even if they do own one. 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. Keep in mind that learning can be enhanced greatly for the entire class even if only a handful of students have a device.

I have my device with me in class. How do I get on the Internet now?

Most devices will detect a wireless connection when you are near one. Most of the time devices will ask you if you would like to join the network when prompted, choose RPS_BYOD from the list.

My device is not prompting me to choose a wireless network. Is there another way to connect?

In the settings menu of your device, there is usually an icon for a network, go to this icon and chose RPS_BYOD from the list or prompt your computer to look for wireless networks in range.

I can't get my device to connect to the network. Can I get some help from someone?

Due to legal concerns, under no circumstances are school staff permitted to work on personal devices. It is not the responsibility of your teacher or other staff to troubleshoot individual devices. If access to a computer is needed for a class assignment students may continue to use any of the district laptops or desktops located in the school

I need to save my work in my network folder. Why can't I access this resource? You are on the guest network. It is not the same as the network you would normally access from a school computer. You will not see your network folder, so you will need to save your work in another place. Some options include a flash drive, your own hard drive, or Google Docs.

I need to print the assignment I just completed, why is there no printer when I try this?

Like the network folders, printers are networked differently in the school and will not be available when you log in to the guest network. Some network solutions include saving it to a flash drive or printing it from home or another school computer. Your teacher may also have a special cloud "inbox" through which student work may be submitted.

Why am I filtered on my own computer? Shouldn't I be able to see what I want to on my own device?

Internet filtering is a requirement of all public schools. The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) requires all network access to be filtered regardless of the device you use to access it while in a public school. You own your device, but the network you're using belongs to the school and Internet access will be filtered.

Will I be able to recharge my device during the day?

We will have power strips available in several classrooms for students to make use of in an emergency. Students should charge their devices at home as it may not always be convenient to charge devices at school.

Am I still held accountable for the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) I signed at the beginning of the school year even though this is my personal device?

Yes, students using a personally owned device must have an Acceptable Use Policy signed.

Parent/Guardian consent to allow students to participate in BYOD initiative.

Name of student	Student lunch ID#

Type of personal devices allowed to connect to school BYOD network, e.g laptop, tablet, phone

Name of parent/guardian
Signature of parent/guardian and student (<i>I have reviewed and consent to the terms and FAQs outlined above in the BYOD initiative</i>)
<i>Parent /guardian signature</i>
<i>Student signature</i>

Please have your child return this form to school.