



Dear Parents of Students entering grades 4-7,

Spring 2023

West Bay Elementary continues to integrate digital technology to improve student engagement and learning. The use of technology has specifically grown in the intermediate grades in connection with our inquiry-based learning. For the last couple of years, we have been encouraging our students to **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)** to school.

Technology plays a central role in our information rich world. Knowing how and when to use technology and to think critically about the information technology opens to us are incredibly valuable life skills. It is with this understanding that we encourage our students in grade 4-7 to bring a personal device to school. Devices will be secured within the classroom during the day and students will take their device home at the end of each day to be charged. The school does own and provide laptops for students to use if they do not have access to a personal device, however the user experience is much more positive on a personal device and the school devices, because they are shared, are not always available.

Grades 4 and 5: Students are asked to bring their own devices and use them most days. A list of recommendations is provided. These do not need to be new devices; rather we are asking that you send devices you presently have.

Grades 6 and 7: Students are asked to bring their own devices to school every day. A list of recommendations is provided. You may choose to send your child to school with a device your family presently has or purchase one for school and home use. Students will be expected to take a device to school each day in secondary school; so, making the investment now will provide long-term benefits.

For the 2023-24 school year, we will continue to facilitate a Bring Your Own Device blended learning environment and continue to foster the understanding that these devices are tools to help leverage the already robust teaching and learning occurring within the school. In addition, there will be a strong emphasis and focus on Digital Citizenship, where students, staff and parents will be engaged in learning how, and when, to navigate the digital world in an ethical and safe manner. The expectation is that devices will be used at school for school work only and only when teachers have asked students to use their device.

As you decide on your child's device, we have created a list of "should haves" for devices you are considering. We believe it is important for you and your child to decide on the device that will best work for them, but to ensure you have a device that will be effective for their learning please note the following recommendations.

Thank you and should you have any questions please feel free to contact your child's classroom teacher or myself.

Sincerely,
Michelle LaBounty, Principal
MLaBounty@wvschools.ca



DEVICE RECOMMENDATIONS

Whatever you buy/bring, it must have:

- Chromebook/laptop with a minimum of 128 G of storage and a minimum of 8G of RAM.
- Internet capability
- built-in speakers
- headphones (please do not send wireless earbuds)
- a power cord with your child's name on it (purchasing a second power cord is helpful)

Whatever you buy/bring, it would be nice if it had:

- a movie making program (iMovie or Microsoft Moviemaker)
- a protective case or cover

Things to avoid:

- sending a device that is too old so that nothing new runs on it
- sending a device that has so many parental controls that your child is unable to access sites and programs we will use
- smart phones/tablets/iPads are not appropriate choices

Recommendations:

- Chromebook (affordable option)
- Netbook (lightweight PC)
- Apple or PC laptop

Spend some time with your child talking about the responsibility bringing and using a device at school entails. It is also a very good opportunity to have your child contribute financially to the purchase of a device.