

Dear Preschool Parents/Guardians,

The Vineland School District is launching a Bring Your Own Device initiative for the 2016-17 school year. Students in Grades Preschool through 12, will be able to bring laptops, netbooks, tablets, or smartphones to use for educational purposes. Having ongoing access to technology will help children develop greater independence, increase engagement, and develop skills required to thrive in the 21st Century. Bring Your Own Device is not mandatory.

### **Educational Activities**

Student devices will be used, based on age appropriateness, to access resources, complete assignments, and for personal organization. Educational activities may include researching information, producing documents, analyzing data, participating in surveys, producing videos, reading e-books, creating blogs, taking notes, or scheduling events. The use of the device is at the discretion of the teacher.

### **Digital Citizenship**

A focus of this initiative is digital citizenship, which will include the responsible use of technology. In our changing world it is necessary for children to learn digital skills, ethics, etiquette, and online safety.

### **Safe and Secure**

To maintain a safe and secure learning environment, a filtered Internet connection will be provided for students. They will not be permitted to use a personal broadband connection such as a 3G/4G phone network. Students will only be able to use their device under the direct supervision of their teacher. Any unauthorized use can result in the device being confiscated and privileges being revoked.

### **Responsibility**

Students are solely responsible for their device. They must bring it fully charged to school. Similar to other personally owned items, the Vineland Preschool Program is not liable for loss, damage, misuse, or theft. Because preschoolers are very young, we caution sending expensive devices into the classroom. At their very young age, preschoolers are just learning how to become responsible. If the device is something that you don't want to have lost or broken, then please think twice before sending it into the classroom with your three or four year old. All children do have access to technology in every preschool classroom.

### **Technical Support**

Children who bring their own devices should be familiar with how to use it. Teachers will offer assistance and staff will be involved in the learning. Teachers will follow the Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards for technology to assist students in their learning.

## **BYOD for Preschoolers**

Young children's brains and bodies are going through critical periods of growth and development. Social interaction with parents/guardians and caregivers/teachers is a foundational element for future school success. Before age three, television viewing can have modest negative effects on cognitive development of children. Interactive activities that promote brain development should be encouraged, such as talking, playing, singing, and reading together. For children two years and older, the AAP recommends limiting children's total (early care and education, and home) media time (with entertainment media) to no more than one to two hours of quality programming per twenty-four hour period (3). *Taken from Caring for Our Children*  
<http://cfoc.nrckids.org/StandardView/2.2.0.3>

## **Preschool Guidelines for the Appropriate Use of Electronic Media**

- Maximum use of technology is limited to no more than 15 minutes per day per child. (Ex. Smart Board, computer, hand-held games, tablets).
- The use of the device for preschoolers will not be permitted during the before and after wrap time.
- The device must stay in the child's book bag during bus rides. Use is limited to when the child is in his or her own classroom during regular preschool hours.
- Time permitted to watch video is limited to 10 minutes.
- Content must be developmentally appropriate. (No violent content which may include wildlife productions, stories with guns, and/or cartoons; frightening characters or stories; cannot be racially prejudicial; must be culturally sensitive; and games are age appropriate)
- Electronic media encourages creativity, movement, problem solving and/or supports and extends classroom interests, themes, and activities.
- Staff are actively involved to assist and enhance the learning.
- The use of BYOD will occur as a choice during Work Time. Any other use must be approved by the Principal prior to bringing the device to school.
- Time limits do not apply to children with disabilities using electronic assistive devices.

We look forward to the educational opportunities that BYOD will bring. Participation in this initiative is voluntary. Your child will not be left out if they do not have a device. The Vineland Preschool Program will continue to provide access to school owned technology.

Sincerely,

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Principal