

June 2018

Dear Parents of Children in Grade 8,

As we have done in the past several years, all middle school students will be included in the school's BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) program for the 2018-2019 school year. Beginning a couple of years ago, the school required specific devices for fifth graders, so the rising fifth-seventh graders this coming year must use one of the choices we have offered. **Eighth graders may continue to use their own devices**, with laptops and "pro" tablets being most effective. Non-"pro" tablets (and especially the iPad or mini iPad) do not support the required work for our eighth-grade students and are not recommended. If your child is new to Independence or is in the market for a new device, we recommend that you consider one of the following three devices as an option since they are the choices that we will be using going forward:

- **Microsoft Surface Laptop or Surface Pro** with Type Cover, at least 4 GB memory and 128 GB storage, manufactured in 2017 or later
- **Apple MacBook, MacBook Pro, or MacBook Air**, manufactured in 2017 or later
- **Chromebook Intel Celeron**, manufactured in 2017 or later

Bringing a device for grades 5-8 is an expectation, and it can be disruptive to the academic learning experience if students do not have their devices each day. The school has a very limited number of "loaners" that can be signed out from the library on a daily basis for situations in which a personal device is temporarily out of service, etc. **However, those devices are not meant to be used regularly as a "personal" device.** All middle school students are required to submit a signed BYOD agreement, which will be sent home in August. The guidelines will be reviewed with the children during a class meeting in September. We are pleased to report that responsibility in using and caring for the devices has been impressive. However, any misuse of a device will result in disciplinary consequences, even for the first offense.

Minimum requirements for BYOD:

- Operating System supported by manufacturer (Windows 7 or higher)
- Internet access through Chrome
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Anti-virus protection with current definitions
- Battery life of 4+ hours preferred
- Protective case, sleeve, etc.

We are looking forward to the BYOD program continuing to enhance and facilitate the overall learning experience of our students.

Best regards,

Amy Graham

Head of Middle School