

BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD)

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) and Protocol for the Use of Technology in the Schools

Technology use is everywhere in our world today. The Thomaston Board of Education believes schools should play a role in teaching students to use technology appropriately. Rather than banning the devices the Thomaston Public School District's students use in their daily lives, the same devices they will soon come to rely on in their future professional lives, it is important to guide them in developing the skills needed to be productive digital citizens by bringing their own technology to campus. Accordingly, access to the District's wireless network, including the Internet, by students via personal electronic devices shall be made available to students for instructional purposes.

Definition of "Device"

For purposes of this policy, "device" means a privately owned wireless and/or portable electronic piece of equipment that includes laptops, netbooks, tablets/slates, iPod Touches, e-Readers, cellular or smart phones and other comparable devices capable of wireless internet access and/or creating, transmitting, receiving or storing electronic information.

Internet

The only internet gateway that may be accessed while in Thomaston Public Schools is the one provided by the District. Any device brought to Thomaston Public Schools will not be permitted to use outside internet sources. Personal internet connective devices, such as but not limited, to cell phones or cell network adapters are not permitted to be used to access outside internet sources at any time.

Software

Many software packages are now available as web browser applications. In general, this negates the need to have required programs loaded onto student devices. Students will generally be able to access the software and internet resources they will need through any web browser. Therefore, there is no required software necessary to take part in the Bring Your Own Device program other than a web browsing application.

Security and Damages

Responsibility for the security of a device rests with the individual owner of the device. The Thomaston Public School District is not responsible or liable for any device lost, stolen or damaged on campus. If a device is lost, stolen or damaged, reports of such loss, theft or damage will be handled through the school administrative office in the same way as reports of loss, theft or damage of other personal items. It is recommended that school-appropriate cases, skins, decals and other custom touches be used to physically identify a student's device from others. While the District is not responsible for damage, protective cases for all devices are encouraged.

Bring Your Own Device Student and Parent Agreement

The use of technology to provide educational material is not a necessity but a privilege. A student does not have the unfettered right to use his/her electronic device while at school. When abused, the privilege will be taken away. When respected, the privilege will benefit the learning environment as a whole.

Students and parents/guardians participating in the Bring Your Own Device program must adhere to the Student Code of Conduct, as well as all applicable Board policies, particularly 6156, Use of Computers in Instruction.

The use of a device in the classroom, as with any personal property, is strictly up to the teacher.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes 10-221

Policy Adopted: March 10, 2014

THOMASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Thomaston, Connecticut