



McCall Middle School

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Dear 2017-2018 McCall Families,

We are proud and excited to announce that McCall Middle School continues to provide a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) environment for all students for the 2017-2018 school year. Over the last few years, we have been working hard on our district technology plan as well as our joint initiative, PowerED UP, with WFEE. This past year, we all of our students participated in a full BYOD environment. We will continue to work hard to provide students with authentic learning experiences that reflect the “real world.” We are preparing students for jobs that don’t even exist today and it is vital that we prepare our students for their future and not our past.

For most of us, our “work days” have a variety of interpersonal, individual, hands-on, and technology-based interactions, and we look for our students to be able to experience this same environment. Having a device at all times will allow for every child to reach for that tool when appropriate. Not only will this access strengthen our students’ technology, academic, and “real world” skills, but the access will also allow students experiences deciding the right tool for their own learning style, and applying their learning in new ways.

Please be assured that although we highly value technology as a tool that allows access, connectivity, and real-world simulation for **all** students, *it is just one* of the many tools that students and teachers will use on a regular basis. With this initiative, piloting students will have access to technology at all times; however, this does not mean they will be using technology at all times.

We recognize there are costs to this initiative. At a minimum, this initiative will require families to invest some amount of time as we work together to get students up and running on devices; for some families, the initiative may result in some expense. It is important to note, for example, that students bring devices to school at their own risk, just like any other personal items; while we will do everything we can to help students ensure the safety of their device, Winchester Public Schools is not liable for damaged, lost, or stolen personal equipment. Still, it is our expectation that we -- families, administrators, teachers, and students -- will find that the educational benefits of having 21st century learners on their own devices at McCall will far outweigh the costs.

If your family chooses not to, or is unable to provide your child with a device, the district will provide him/her with one. In order to prepare for this, **we ask all families complete this survey** by Friday, August 18, 2017. This survey will let us know if you plan to send a device to school with your child or if you are unable to provide your child with a device:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/McCallDeviceNeeds>

Many of our parents/guardians have asked what the recommended Chromebook is. The recommended Chromebook would be the same one we purchase for our schools.

HP Chromebook 11 G4 2.16GHz Celeron 11.6in display

<http://www.newegg.com/Product/Product.aspx?Item=N82E16834261737>

or

<http://www.govconnection.com/shop/hp-chromebook-11-g4-2.16ghz-celeron-11.6in-display/23839917?cac=Result>

Finally, please see McCall's BYOD website for information we have compiled for you:

- Home

<https://sites.google.com/site/mccallmiddlebyod/home>

- FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) link:

<https://sites.google.com/site/mccallmiddlebyod/faqs>

- Device Recommendations/ Specifications

<https://sites.google.com/site/mccallmiddlebyod/device-recommendations-specifications>

- Student Acceptable Use Policy (AUP): <https://sites.google.com/site/mccallmiddlebyod/district-acceptable-use-policy>

- Access to Electronic Media:

<https://sites.google.com/site/mccallmiddlebyod/access-to-electronic-media>

Again, we are so excited for this initiative. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Jorge Goncalves

Principal

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