



# Bring Your Own Device 2026-2027

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is BYOD?

BYOD stands for **Bring Your Own Device**. In grades 10–12, students bring a laptop or a tablet with a keyboard to school each day. Devices are used **at teacher discretion** for learning activities. Teachers will use “lids up, lids down” strategies to balance device use with discussion, paper-based work, and hands-on learning.

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### Does BYOD mean students will be on screens all day?

BYOD does **not** mean constant screen time. Devices are used when they add value to learning and put away when they do not. All classes continue to use paper-based activities, discussions, presentations, labs, and other non-digital learning approaches.

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### Why is the school implementing BYOD?

Our role as a public school is to prepare students for life after graduation. Digital literacy is now an essential skill for post-secondary education, the workplace, and daily life. BYOD helps students:

- Build responsible technology habits
- Learn to use industry-standard tools (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Teams, Canva, etc.)
- Learn to collaborate, research, problem-solve, and communicate digitally
- Develop responsible and ethical use of AI tools

At Argyle, access to school-owned laptops is limited. BYOD ensures equitable day-to-day access to appropriate learning technology.

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## Why start BYOD with grades 10–12?

Senior students are generally more ready to:

- Manage valuable items responsibly
- Use devices for learning rather than distraction
- Prepare for post-secondary environments where laptops are expected

Senior courses such as English, Social Studies, Careers, Accounting, Marketing, and Digital Media often rely heavily on digital tools.

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## Is BYOD common in other schools?

BYOD is already in place in several Metro Vancouver districts, including New Westminister (grades 6-12), Coquitlam (Grades 9-12) and West Vancouver (Grades 4-12). Argyle is piloting BYOD for North Vancouver School District.

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## What about cell phones?

BYOD allows us to **further restrict phone use** at school. Phones are not instructional tools and are put away during class time (in lockers or phone pockets). Laptops become the primary gateway to the internet for learning, which allows for better monitoring and control.

On NVSD networks, **streaming services and social media are blocked**, including Netflix, TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, X, and similar platforms. This ensures devices are used for learning purposes during the school day.

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## What kind of device does my child need?

Students need a **laptop or tablet with a keyboard**. This device:

- Does **not** need to be new
- Must meet **minimum Microsoft 365 home-use requirements**
- Should **not** have a data plan (to ensure school Wi-Fi is used)



## Are textbooks moving fully online?

While many learning resources are digital and shared through Microsoft Teams, printed materials and traditional resources are still used where appropriate. BYOD supports access to online resources and allows students to stay current with the latest information and resources.

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## Where will students charge their devices?

We are fortunate in our new build to be ready to charge many devices at once. We have hundreds of charging ports around the school – in the library, in flex work stations, and in hallways. We are also investigating device-only charging lockers. Students are encouraged to arrive with devices fully charged whenever possible.

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## What if my child forgets or breaks their device?

**Day-use laptops** and chargers are available from the library. Families remain responsible for personal devices, just as they are for other school supplies and valuables. Families may wish to consider protective cases, as the school cannot replace broken personal devices.

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## What if a device is lost or stolen?

Students are responsible for managing their devices throughout the day. BYOD is introduced at senior grades because students are better prepared for this responsibility. We are focusing on preventative measures: students can request a locker in the school, we have an additional 130 day use lockers in the PHE wing students can use for one class (students bring their own lock), and are looking into charging lockers. Students must take responsibility to secure their devices, as the school cannot replace lost or stolen personal devices.

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## Is financial assistance available?

Argyle partners with [BC Tech for Learning](#), a local non-profit that repurposes devices from organizations. Families can purchase a **used laptop for approximately \$250** (at cost) from the school. **Monthly financing** is available (up to 9 months). Families experiencing financial hardship can confidentially email **Laura Ames (lames@sd44.ca)** by **June 1** to place an order for summer laptop pickup.



## Are there student discounts for new devices?

Student discounts are available through vendors such as **Dell** and **Lenovo**. Families considering purchasing a device are encouraged to do so sooner rather than later due to rising technology costs.

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## Is this the end of paper and pencil?

No. Paper, pencil, hands-on learning, and face-to-face discussion remain critical aspects of learning and will still be daily features in classrooms. BYOD simply adds another tool to support learning and means all students have access to technology when they need it.

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## Who can I contact with further questions?

If you have questions or concerns about BYOD or financial assistance, please contact:  
Laura Ames, Principal: [lames@sd44.ca](mailto:lames@sd44.ca)