



MANIFOLD HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL NO. 4224
STRACHAN AVENUE, MANIFOLD HEIGHTS, 3218
Phone: 5229 9643 Fax: 5229 2997
EMAIL: manifold.heights.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Parent Information Session FAQ

How can the BYOD Pilot Program improve student learning?

The BYOD program will support, encourage and engage students in current and future lessons. If a student is interested in the lessons, retention of content is achieved thus improving results.

Why is 32GB Internal Storage required?

Students will need sufficient space for apps and the content associated with the particular apps used at school. If you have a 16GB iPad, your child may have limitations on how many photos or videos are able to be stored.

Will my child be left behind if they do not participate in the program?

No, the school understands that purchasing a new device (such as an iPad) can be a difficult decision and represents a major investment for families. The school currently has limited devices available for student use and these will be available to students who are unable to bring in a home-based device or purchase a device for the commencement of or sometime during 2017.

What happens if the device is damaged at school and are parents required to insure the device?

The school will take every possible measure to protect equipment; however, students will ultimately be responsible for their device. Devices will not be covered by the school's or DET insurance. If your child damages their device, you will be liable for the cost of repairs. The school recommends that parents insure all devices.

Why are parents being informed of this program during Term 4?

The BYOD Program proposal was presented to school council late in Term 3, but has been discussed for some time. We know that the timeline will result in some families coming on board during 2017 and not necessarily from the commencement of Term 1.

What are the recommended apps for the device and are parents required to pay for these?

The school will do its best to only use free apps however we cannot guarantee this for every app and for every lesson into the future. Student iPads will not be connected to the school's iTunes account and it is a responsibility of the parents to connect their child's device to their account. A recommended app list will come in the near future when the school has finalised planning for 2017.

What apps were used at the Parent Information Session?

Verso, Kahoot and Padlet.

The program is called a Pilot Program, will this program continue in the coming years?

Yes, we expect so. It is called a pilot program given its first year of implementation. As other schools have found, adaptations/modifications will inevitably be made in coming years.

Why commence the Pilot Program in the Seniors and not the Middles?

The Senior students were chosen due to their capacity to use and manipulate the iPads. Senior students are more mature and are capable of using technology without distraction. It does raise an issue of enhancing our Middles ICT access and readiness for the Senior years.

Are device updates the responsibility of parents?

Yes it is a parent/student responsibility that updates are done at home as the iPad needs to be connected to the family iTunes account. Updates can also take a long time meaning the device is out of use while it is happening.

I currently have an iPad at home, can I bring this device?

We have indicated a minimum requirement of iPads due to storage size and software. However, we also understand that families already have iPads at home. Students may bring in these devices but if they cannot connect to the school network, download apps, have sufficient storage and up to date security settings, a newer device may need to be purchased.

I am unable to financially afford to purchase a device for 2017, what can I do?

The school understands that purchasing a new device (such as an iPad) can be a difficult decision and represents a major investment for families. The school currently has limited devices available for student use and these will be available to students who are unable to bring in a home-based device or purchase a device. Government schools are expected to ensure students can access devices as a component of their class work. Obviously a BYOD Program will significantly enhance this access.

Payment options for Lay By or Finance are available for eligible families from participating stores such as Harvey Norman and JB HiFi. Finance options are also available if you are purchasing at an Apple Store or online.

Apple offers special iPad pricing through the Family Funded Program for students attending our school as well as free delivery, engraving, AppleCare+ and accessories. This special pricing is available for purchases made at Apple Stores, through our schools customised online store link (available on the school website) or via the Apple contact centre. If you are purchasing in-store or over the phone just let the specialist know our school's name.

Uniting Care Geelong provide a No Interest Loans Scheme for Back to School Costs between \$300.00 - \$1,200.00. For more information please contact 03 4210 1108.

Do I need to purchase the device from the listed retailers?

No, pricing has been sourced from some stores for your information only.

Is there a specific cover and screen protector that I need to purchase?

A cover that can fold over and protect the screen is recommended as well as a clear screen protector.

Will I require a WiFi or Cellular device?

Only a WiFi device. The school has an internet filtering system that ensures only appropriate content can be searched. If a cellular device with a sim card is brought into the school there is no filtering system.

Where will devices be stored whilst at school?

All devices will be stored securely in lockable cabinets away from windows/doors.

Will students be able to use the devices for blogging?

Most likely but within educational friendly apps and websites.

Will homework be set on the devices?

More than likely, however homework will still be set traditionally too.

Will the device be required to be charged fully each day?

Yes.

Is the program compulsory?

We don't expect to have a 100% uptake on day 1, it may take 6 months for the entire cohort of Seniors to be on board. However, it may impact upon your child's accessibility due to the sharing of school owned technology devices.

Who is responsible for backing up the devices?

It will be the responsibility of the families to back up their devices.

Will my child be able to install apps and games?

This will depend on whether you provide them with your iTunes passwords and how paid apps can be purchased. We recommend you do not associate your credit card with the account and only use iTunes vouchers.

Can apps be installed on other iPads, iPhone or iPods?

Yes.

What happens if another student or a teacher damages my child's device whilst at school?

Every measure will be taken to ensure this scenario does not occur however a case by case basis will be implemented to deal with such situations. We highly recommended you insure your device to eliminate any potential accidents.

Will my child's internet usage be monitored whilst at school?

Yes. The school has an internet filtering system that aims to stop inappropriate material reaching the students. Teacher supervision is also important in monitoring student usage and behaviour online. The school is committed to online cyber safety education for all students. This will be an ongoing focus across the curriculum as we continue to reinforce strategies for appropriate and safe behaviour online. Students may occasionally come across inappropriate content. We believe that providing them with strategies to deal with such occasions in a safe and supportive environment is preferable to them dealing with the issue in unsupported circumstances.

Can the students print from their devices?

Yes, printing will be available for students from their devices to the photocopier in the Senior department.

Will I need to purchase a new device every year?

No, you will not be required to purchase a new device every year. However, some families may wish to upgrade their device at any time.

Will student learning outcomes be evaluated differently?

Yes they can/will be due to the increasing efficiency of educational websites and apps.

How will the devices be used in the classroom?

The devices will be used to support lessons currently taught through apps and websites.

How much time will my child spend using the iPad each day?

Students will still be required to read, write and perform calculations on paper. It will not be a program where every lesson of the week will be on technology.

Will the students still be writing?

Yes students will still write using pen and paper.

Who is responsible for the Tech Support?

We have the services of a qualified technician (Michael Anderson) at the school for approximately 10 hours per week. Michael also works in other local primary schools.