

Goddard's Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Initiative for Grades 5-12

BYOD Initiative's Philosophy: Technology is a part of every student's daily life, and technology devices enhance the learning environment and promote student engagement.

What is BYOD?—acronym for Bring Your Own Device; BYOD is a phrase that has become widely adopted and refers to employees/students who bring their own personal computing devices – such as smartphones, laptops, tablets, and PDAs – to the workplace/school for use and connectivity on the business/school district network.



Why BYOD? As it is the mission of Goddard USD 265 to “educate all students for lifelong success,” one of the goals from the district’s three-year state approved technology plan is to ensure that students and educators have the access and resources required to adequately accomplish its mission. In 2012, the district committed to the continued efforts of enhancing the learning environment through an upgraded, more robust wireless infrastructure. The wireless infrastructure has been expanded so that every school now has a guest "BYOD" wireless access point that provides filtered Internet access. Therefore, we now encourage students to bring their own personal technology device to school. The student’s advantage is their familiarity with their own devices. We also recognize the need for and support increased student access to digital instructional resources. Having access to web-based curriculum, information and assessments with the mobility of smaller devices and wireless networks shifts classroom practice toward the BYOD model.

What is the Wireless Network? The BYOD guest wireless is known as USD265 - BYOD. The network is set up like free Wi-Fi networks found in many public places across the country. Students, staff, and/or guests (e.g. attending basketball games in gymnasiums/music performances in the auditoriums) connect to the network via a secure access point, and they get the same filtered internet access they would find on any school-owned device. Selected internal resources and web-based resources will also be available to students based on curriculum requirements.

Will teachers use BYOD in the Goddard Schools? BYOD is not mandatory. BYOD is for any teacher who wants to encourage parents to let students bring personal devices such as laptops, netbooks, smart phones, iPads, and tablets to school. Students use their devices to take notes, complete assignments, create study tools, and work in collaboration with peers and teachers. Teachers are encouraged to show parents how students will use their devices to enhance their learning.

What if a student does not have a personal device to bring to school and/or cannot afford a device? Personally owned devices supplement the Goddard, USD 265 school-owned laptops, iPads, and electronic resources. Students who don’t have their own device or choose not to bring one to school can use school-provided devices, ensuring everyone has the same access in the classroom. Each classroom has access to school-owned devices for classroom student use that provides equivalent access to technological resources as other students who choose to bring a device.