Fall 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our district is currently embarking on what is called the Bring Your Own Device initiative (BYOD). This initiative has been put in place not only to bring technology into the classroom and make it more accessible to students, but also to increase student achievement. I am one in a group of teachers throughout the district who was designated to pilot this program last year, and I excited for the opportunity this year to involve our students in moving this initiative forward as a district.

Two forms have been provided that outline the district BYOD program. The *first* is an informational form explaining the BYOD initiative. The *second* form is a permission form, which provided guidelines for BYOD district-wide. In addition, this form acts as a technology survey given to all BYOD classroom parents to help us gain a better understanding of what technology is available to students at home as we move forward.

This initiative is still in its early stages. No student will be penalized in any way if they do not have a device or you do not wish for them to be involved at this time; however, I am more than happy to help you locate an appropriate device for use. Students who are involved will be expected, as always, to adhere to the Student Code of Conduct, the Acceptable Use Policy for district technology and the BYOD guidelines at all times. Students are each responsible for their own devices. Carrie Downie, Colonial, and I will not be responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged devices. **Their devices will only be used in our classroom. Our classroom door is locked every time students leave to ensure safety in this setting.** I plan on spending a few days in class teaching students how to use the devices appropriately and setting up an environment where they feel their devices are safe. A student contract for use will be signed and a copy will be sent home on the first day of usage!

Again, I am excited for this opportunity and our class shares in my excitement, too. Please be assured that the devices in the classroom will be used in a way that enhances instruction and provides technological connections. In our classroom handbook you will find several examples of how we will use our devices over the course of the school year, in addition to a schedule of dates when students may bring their devices into the classroom.

After reading through the information, please sign and send back the slip below acknowledging that you read my letter and the attached information, even if your student is not participating! If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call. Thank you for your time and support.

Mrs. Corey

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I have read the letter and attached information. I understand how devices can be used in the classroom and know that I can contact Mrs. Corey anytime with questions.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­\_

**Technological Connections in 104**

 **BYOD 2013-2014**

**Weebly-** Our website contains a wide array of links that can be accessed via student devices to complete interactive centers and projects in class.

**QR Codes-** Centers containing QR codes will be available in reading and math for work extensions. QR codes can be scanned in class and allow for easy access to activities and informational website. For some quick facts are QR Codes see *http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QR\_Code*

**Socrative-**This website allows teachers to create online quick quizzes and provide students with immediate feedback. Team challenges and group work are also possible this application. Check it out at *http://www.socrative.com/!*

These are only a few examples of educational connections that will be more readily available using the BYOD initiative! Look for more examples in our updates. ☺

**Schedule for Usage**

9/16 Classroom Kick-Off- Bring Your Own Device.

Student contracts and parent contracts must be returned before this date in order to participate

**Designated Weekdays**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

\*\* If there is a change, students will be notified in advance!