

November 12, 2012

Dear Parents,

Recent changes in Carroll County board policy now permit students to bring and use their personal technology devices for instructional purposes at school. This exciting opportunity presents an entirely new dimension of learning potential for Carroll County Students and teachers. This letter and guidance documents posted on the district website at www.carrollcountyschools.com are provided for your information on how students may use personally owned technology devices at school.

While the district's expectations for use of personal devices within a classroom setting are clearly defined in board policy, parents and students also need to know how schools will manage student use of personal devices before or after school, during lunch, at class change, and other transitional times. The following information is available for students and parents at www.carrollcountyschools.com to clarify standards and expectations for BYOT use before, during, and after school:

1. **Digital Citizenship Standards: Cell Phones.** These seven standards were written to ensure consistent expectations districtwide for student use of personal technology devices during class times and periods of transition. All schools will adopt and honor these standards as written. A copy of these standards will be posted in each classroom and other areas throughout the building. (See attached).
2. **BYOT Protocol for Use of Technology on Carroll County School Campuses.** This document is also known as the student use agreement. It addresses the types of devices a student may bring, defines the acceptable standards for classroom use, establishes that teachers set the terms for use within their classrooms, and places responsibility for security or damages to personal devices on the owner. Students may not bring their own technology devices to school without a BYOT student use agreement that includes a parent signature. In addition, board policy gives school administration the authority to deny use of these devices to students if necessary.
3. **BYOT Questions and Answers for Students.** This is a list of questions and answers that students and parents may frequently ask. These will be updated as needed.
4. **Board Policy JCDA: Student Code of Conduct.** The student discipline policy was updated to permit student use of personally owned technology devices. The policy requires that students must obey district and school rules in order to use personally owned technology devices.

This information posted on carrollcountyschools.com will be updated as necessary. Please talk with your child's teacher, principal, or media specialist if you need specific information about technology use at school. I invite you to contact me if you need additional information about BYOT or other district initiatives.

Sincerely,
Scott K. Cowart
Superintendent