

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Educators in Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools are seeing first hand the power of technology to enhance learning for students. The use of technology is allowing students to engage in learning tasks that promote greater understanding and that were previously inconceivable. Today, devices can be personalized for each individual adding special support to learning as needed. With this in mind schools are developing plans to encourage students to Bring in their Own Robust Devices (**BYORD**).

At Neil M Ross, we are encouraging students in grades 4-6 to "BYORD" Bring their Own Robust Device and allow students the opportunity to have technology "in hand" in our classrooms. We are encouraging parents with students in grades 4-6 to allow students to bring a device daily if owned.

We do have school owned devices for use by all students to ensure that **all** students have access to technology.

While no device is perfect, if you are considering a purchase the following guidelines would allow students to have a device that will allow them to make the most of Google Apps for Education and personalize their learning.

- Wireless networking capability (the district provides filtered wireless access in all buildings for students)
- A microphone
- An external keyboard for entering text
- An audio output for earbuds or headphones
- A minimum of 6 hours of use from one battery charge
- A full-functioning, recent Chrome web-browser that will allow access to Google Apps for Education tools and documents.
- A sturdy carrying case that will protect the device
- An integrated camera that takes both still photos and video
- The ability to run Flash software

Although these features are less essential, you might consider getting a device with

- A virus protection program, such as Norton or Macafee, if purchasing a Windows or Macintosh desktop or laptop computer.
- Machine-based productivity software (such as Microsoft Office, Openoffice, or iWork).

There is no 'perfect' device, however the following are examples of devices that meet the criteria above (the first two are preferred as they both run all applications used in class):

1. Laptop (ex. Macbook Pro, Macbook Air, HP Laptop, Toshiba Satellite Laptop)
2. Chromebooks (ex. Asus Chromebook, HP Chromebook. Samsung Chromebook)
3. Tablet (ex. HTC Nexus Android, Acer Iconia One, Asus Transformer, Samsung Galaxy)
4. iPads (iPad2, iPad Air, iPad mini). You may have this at home and it will work for many school based applications but not all.