

BYOD at Starling Elementary

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)... It's become a buzz phrase in schools across the country. But what does it really mean? How will it affect instruction? And most importantly, as Gwinnett County Public Schools moves in this direction, what do students, parents, and teachers need to know about this topic?

At Starling Elementary, we anticipate students will use their own technology more and more as part of the teaching and learning process. The school system is researching how to best integrate personal technology devices into the classroom. In order to allow students to bring their own technology, the district has expanded its Wi-Fi capabilities. GCPS is also allowing different kinds of devices (cell phones, tablets, laptops, e-readers, etc.) to be used instructionally.



Access

Access to the Internet at school will be provided via the GCPS network. To be granted access, students must confirm they accept the terms and conditions of Gwinnett County Public Schools' Responsible Use Policy (RUP). By accepting these terms and conditions, users agree to uphold the contents of the RUP as well as the Student Code of Conduct on their own student-owned devices while on school district property. Additionally, in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), GCPS will filter all content for users connected to the GCPS network at school.

Theft, Loss, or Damage

The owner of the device is responsible for ensuring that the device is safe and secure. GCPS and employees of GCPS are not liable or responsible for any theft, damage, or loss of any non-district device or the information on any such device.

Texting Fees

GCPS is not responsible for any fees associated with using any personal technology devices. All fees and charges related to texting or Internet use on any student-owned device are the sole responsibility of the owner. GCPS will offer Wi-Fi Internet access through the GCPS network without fees to BYOD participants. However, if a student chooses to use other functions or features on his or her device, standard device fees may be billed by the student's provider.

BYOD FAQs for Starling Parents

How will students connect or log on to the Internet?

Make certain that your device is charged and that you are within the range of a GCPS Wi-Fi access point. You can connect to the Internet by logging on to the GCPS network just as you would any other wireless network by following the directions in your device's owner manual. You will be prompted to enter your school login code and password. Once they have been authenticated, you will receive filtered access to the Internet under Responsible Use Policy (RUP) guidelines.

If students use their own technology, will they be able to get to sites that aren't allowed in school?

No. Students will have the same internet access on their device as the computers at Starling. Students will not be allowed to use 3G or 4G to access the internet.

If students cannot get connected to the GCPS network, who will help?

Support for student-owned devices is the responsibility of the owner. Classmates also may be able to help. Due to other responsibilities, GCPS staff may not be able to assist, and cannot be responsible for technical issues. Always consult the owner's manual for your device, or the "Help" menu for directions on how to access a wireless network.

Who is responsible for the student device at school?

The student. Starling is not responsible for damaged or stolen devices. However, each teacher will lock their classroom door when the class is in another location.

How can teachers monitor what every student is doing?

When students go through the GCPS network, the same safeguards are there that are on school computers. With every lesson, teachers will provide expectations and guidance. There are consequences if students do not follow guidelines.

Does the student device need anti-virus software?

Yes. Students will need to update their anti-virus software before bringing their device(s) onto school property.

Can students use their device in all of their classes?

That is up to the teacher of each class, and/or the school's plan for use.

Can students print from their device to school printers?

At this time, there is no printing allowed from student-owned devices, though this option may be added in the future. If students need to print, it is recommended that they e-mail the document or save it on a flash drive, log on to a district-owned device to retrieve, and print.

Can students save their work to the school network?

Students will not be able to save work to the network, but they do have the ability to upload files into their eCLASS course pages.

What do I do if my child's device is damaged or stolen?

The owner is responsible for keeping his or her personal technology safe and secure. Any time there is theft or damage; students should notify their teacher or the administration. GCPS and employees of GCPS are not liable or responsible for any theft, damage, or loss of any non-district device or the information on any such device.

Will students be able to charge their device at school?

Presently, no facilities are dedicated to charging personal devices, with a limited number of outlets available in any given space. Students should make it a point to charge their technology prior to coming to school each day.

My child has a data plan from an outside provider on their device that allows Internet access without using the GCPS network. Is that allowable?

Students should not access the Internet through any cellular data provider while on school premises. BYOD use is allowable only on the GCPS network.

Is my child still held accountable for following the district's Responsible Use Policy even though they are using their own personal device?

Yes. RUP is in effect even when they are using their own technology. Each time they attempt to access the network at school or at a school event, students are expected to abide by the Terms and Conditions of GCPS' RUP. Violating the Terms and Conditions of the RUP would be a Student Code of Conduct violation and would be dealt with by school administration.

