

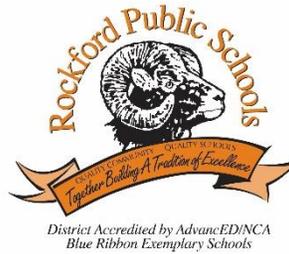
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# Rockford High School Freshman Center

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Dear Freshman Center Families,

It's hard to believe that we are almost through Trimester 1 already! Thank you for your communication and feedback up to this point. We appreciate the partnership in helping your student have the most successful start to their high school career as possible!

This letter has updated information regarding the Freshman Center transition to the 1:1 environment and the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) initiative. The purpose of this initiative is help increase student engagement and better prepare our students for the next chapter in their life with a college placement and/or beginning a career. For clarity, the term "1:1" means that all students will bring a device to every class period, every day. The term "BYOD" means that students bring a device from home. High school students will be encouraged to bring their own device which is different than the elementary and middle school 1:1 initiatives.

In previous communications, we stated that the Freshman Center would begin our 1:1 initiative, involving the BYOD concept, starting second trimester of this school year. **Due to some unforeseen situations, we are going to adapt our transition to the start of the third trimester, which is the beginning of March 2018.** Rockford Public Schools feels this additional time is necessary to make sure the implementation is done in the correct manner. Then, beginning in the fall of 2018, the 10th-12th grades will implement their BYOD initiative.

After running a successful BYOD pilot in several 9<sup>th</sup> grade classes this past spring, students (and parents) have noted, that **by bringing their own devices**, students enjoy additional benefits. Some of the benefits cited are:

- Students can pick a device more suited to their personal tastes than if they were issued a typical school issued device (they may select devices that are lighter, smaller, bigger, more powerful, etc.)
- Parents and students would not need to be responsible for RPS property, and therefore, would avoid paying into the accidental damage program pool.
- Students could store their own files (including music and personal documents) on their devices for personal use whenever it may be appropriate. Students could also use personal devices for non-school/non-education purposes. **This is not possible with a school issued device.**
- Students would not be subject to the RPS content filters and access restrictions when they are off school property. Any school issued device is subject to web filter and access restrictions 24/7.

## **Bring Your Own Device Guidelines**

If your student chooses to bring their own device, here are the recommended guidelines for efficient functionality:

### Acceptable devices include:

1. Chromebooks (purchased within the last 3 years)
2. Windows Laptops (running Windows 10)
3. Apple Devices:
  - a. Laptops (purchased within the last 5 years and running Safari 3.1 or greater)
  - b. Tablets (including iPad Air or greater, purchased within the last 2 years)

### All devices must meet the following **minimum** requirements:

1. a 9.5" diagonal display
2. a keyboard (physically attached as wireless keyboards have the frustrating ability to connect to or interfere with other student devices in a room of students)
3. a web browser (Chrome, Safari, or Microsoft Internet Explorer– Note that other browsers may create frustration for students while accessing content designed for the “big 3 browsers”)
4. a wireless WiFi connection capability

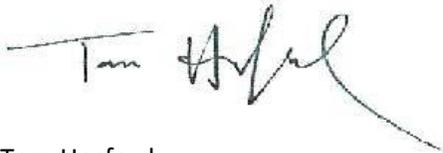
Our Technology team intends to review each personal student device brought to school for classes and help insure students can fully participate.

If you are interested in having your student bring their own device, it is recommended that you search the internet and local advertisements to find a price and device that works for your family and meets the minimum requirements stated in this letter. Keep an eye out as the holiday season approaches. Devices may be advertised at a real low price.

**Should your child not have a device that meets the minimum requirements outlined above**, the school will provide a laptop computer to access the required materials. Your child will also have access to the course material for homework from any network you may have at home, or they may access the material with public internet connectivity.

If you have any questions or concerns about this initiative, please feel free to contact me at any time. We are very excited about the educational experience this new set of tools is going to afford our students as we better prepare them for both college and career.

Sincerely,



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