



ST MAROUN'S COLLEGE

BRING YOUR OWN DESIGNATED DEVICE (BYODD)

Frequently Asked Questions

In 2016, St Maroun's College will introduce a Bring Your Own Designated Device program (BYODD) for students in Year 4, Year 7 and Year 10. The College anticipates that the BYODD program will provide students with access to expanded, global resources and content, as well as giving students the opportunity to take ownership of their learning and approach to creative problem solving.

In this document you will find a series of questions that you may have about the BYODD program, along with answers or guidelines.

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1. About our BYODD Program

What is BYODD?

BYODD stands for Bring Your Own Designated Device. The main advantage of BYODD over traditional BYO device programs is that teachers, parents and students can be assured that they are equipped with a piece of technology that has the capability, performance and reliability to match the educational demands that will be placed upon it.

Why BYODD for St Maroun's College?

The college anticipates the BYODD program will provide students with access to expanded, global resources and content, as well as online digital learning. It will also give students the opportunity to take ownership of their learning and approach to creative problem solving.

When does the BYODD program commence?

The BYODD Program at St Maroun's College will commence on Day 1 of Term 1 2016. However, devices should be acquired pre-Christmas to ensure readiness for the beginning of the school year.

Which year groups will be included in BYODD?

Students enrolled in Years 4, 7 and 10 will begin our BYODD program in 2016. Students in other year groups may opt into the program in 2016. The BYODD program will be expanded to other year groups at St Maroun's College in 2017.

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2. About the Designated Device

Why have you chosen the designated devices available for purchase?

We have carefully chosen seven different model devices for parents' consideration, based on hardware specification, reliability, battery life and warranty support. They will meet the demanding needs of daily use in the classroom, for the duration of the warranty period (3 years). Generally, retail devices only include a 12-month warranty and warranty repairs can be very expensive.

Can I buy an alternative device not listed?

Yes, parents may choose to purchase an alternative device. However, to ensure the device will perform adequately and function correctly on the College network, there are strict guidelines that need to be adhered to. To assist with this, a BYODD Hardware Checklist has been created for parents to print and take to a computer retail store, to ensure the BYODD device is compatible with the College network and BYODD program. This form is available on the College website, under the Curriculum | BYODD Program menu, or here:

<http://tinyurl.com/pd483cg>

Can we use a laptop we already own?

The aim of the program is to ensure ALL students are equipped with reliable, high-performing devices that aid their learning environment. Therefore it is imperative that no student is disadvantaged by having a device that lacks the reliability or the performance to meet the demands of daily use. St. Maroun's College discourages the use of older, less-reliable devices. If your device is less than 2 years old, and complies with the BYODD Hardware Checklist, we ask that you complete the following online application form for approval:

<http://goo.gl/forms/98360F9cCT>

Should I purchase a MAC or PC device?

Broadly speaking, there is no reason to choose one over the other it just comes down to personal preference. Because we want students to take ownership of their learning experience, we encourage students to be comfortable with, and enjoy using, their chosen BYODD device.

Will I need to purchase specific software?

Initially, a list of free software resources will be made available to students for download, along with access to Microsoft Office 365 (an online version of the Microsoft Office application suite). As the program matures, it is likely that certain software packages may require purchasing by families. The current software requirements are available on the College website under the Curriculum | BYODD Program menu, or here:

<http://tinyurl.com/p5boffz>

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3. Technical Support

Will the school provide technical support for BYODD devices?

Yes, the St. Maroun's College IT office will be available to assist students with basic issues like connecting to the College wireless network and to troubleshoot minor issues. We do, however, encourage students to take responsibility for the care of the device and to become self-sufficient in managing software and the setup of their device.

How do we organise warranty repairs if needed?

The 6 devices available through the online purchase portal are each covered by a 3-year onsite repair warranty. Should a warranty claim arise, St. Maroun's College IT will facilitate warranty repairs on behalf of families. We will arrange for a technician to attend the College and ensure the repair work is performed correctly. This service is **ONLY** available for devices purchased via the online portal, with the appropriate warranty. If you supply your own BYODD device outside of the purchase portal, you will need to arrange warranty repairs yourself.

Will a loan device be available if needed?

We will endeavour to have a small pool of loan laptops available for students who are without a device due to warranty repairs. Loan devices are not available for any other situation that may arise, such as battery running flat, or your BYODD device left at home.

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4. Using the Device at School

Will the school provide Wi-Fi access?

Yes, access to the Wi-Fi network at St. Maroun's College will be made available to all BYODD devices.

Will there be internet filtering at St Maroun's?

We have made significant improvements to internet content filtering at St. Maroun's College, providing a safe online environment for all students. Inappropriate websites containing age-restricted material, potentially harmful material or illegal content will not be accessible. In addition, social media sites will also be blocked whilst on campus.

Will there be internet filtering at home?

We are only able to offer internet content filtering to BYODD devices whilst they are on campus, connected to the College Wi-Fi network. Once a BYODD device is removed from the College grounds and disconnected from the College Wi-Fi network, internet filtering becomes the responsibility of parents.

Will I be able to charge the battery of my device at school?

No. Due to Work Health Safety issues, the recharging of devices will not be available at school. Students are required to bring their device to school fully-charged at the start of each day. Loan laptops are NOT available should your BYODD device run out of battery power.

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5. Teaching and Learning

How will I use the device in class?

The objective of our BYODD program is to provide students with the opportunity to collaborate, communicate and research on a global level in real time. Currently our teachers use various teaching styles, which range from written tasks to online tasks where students are expected to research, collaborate and produce digital content. With the introduction of our BYODD program, this will become more fluid and prevalent.

Will I use the device in every lesson?

No, technology will only be used when appropriate and as an aid to learning. Technology is only one of many tools used in modern pedagogy.

How will the BYODD program improve learning?

Technology allows students to create content much more readily. The collaboration offered through online tools such as Google Apps and Microsoft Office 365 can enable students to gain a deeper understanding of what they need to do, when creating their own content.

Will students become too dependent on computers?

No, technology will not replace a well-rounded education. Electronic devices are an aid to education, and another tool in the wide spectrum of tools used in classrooms.

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