

Gainesville ISD “Bring Your Own Technology” (B.Y.O.T.) Responsible Use Guidelines

Purpose:

Gainesville ISD uses Instructional Technology as one way of enhancing the mission to teach the skills, knowledge and behaviors students will need as responsible citizens in the global community. Students learn collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking in a variety of ways throughout the school day. In an effort to increase access to those 21st century skills, Gainesville ISD will allow personal devices on our network and school grounds for students who follow the responsibilities stated in the Acceptable Use Policy and the attached guidelines regarding B.Y.O.T. Gainesville ISD provides technology that is appropriate and adequate to support instructional purposes. The use of personal devices by students is optional, and students who do not participate in B.Y.O.T. will not be penalized and alternate modes of participation will be available.

An important component of B.Y.O.T. will be education about appropriate online behaviors. We will review cyber-safety rules with students frequently throughout the course of the school year, and will offer reminders and reinforcement about safe online behaviors. In addition to the rules outlined in these guidelines, students will be expected to comply with all class and school rules while using personal devices.

Device Types:

For the purpose of this program, the word “devices” will include: laptops, cell phones, smart phones, iPads, iPod Touch, and tablets. Please note that Nintendo Switch and/or other gaming devices with internet access are not permissible.

Guidelines:

- Students and parents/guardians participating in B.Y.O.T. must adhere to the Student Code of Conduct, Student Handbook, Acceptable Use Policy, and all Board policies, particularly Internet Acceptable Use Guidelines.
- Each teacher has the discretion to allow and regulate the use of personal devices in the classroom and on specific projects.
- Approved devices must be in silent mode while riding school buses and on school campuses, unless otherwise allowed by a teacher.
- Devices may not be used to cheat on assignments or tests or for non-instructional purposes such as (such as making personal phone calls and text/instant messaging).
- Students may not use devices to record, transmit or post-photographic images or video of a person, or persons on campus during school activities and/or hours, unless otherwise allowed by a teacher.
- Devices may only be used to access files on computer or internet sites which are relevant to the classroom curriculum. Games are not permitted, unless otherwise allowed by a teacher.

Cell Phone Use Guidelines:

All students may use these devices on campus before school begins and after school ends.

These devices must be kept out of sight and turned off during the instructional program. Unauthorized use of such devices disrupts the instructional program and distracts from the learning environment. Therefore, unauthorized use is grounds for confiscation of the device by school officials, including classroom teachers. Repeated unauthorized use of such devices may lead to disciplinary actions.

School staff may also confiscate cell phones when school routines and expectations are not followed. If a student does not follow teacher redirection to silence and store their phone:

- Students who possess a device do so at their own risk to possible loss, damage, or liability. Gainesville Independent School District will not be responsible for the recovery of lost or stolen electronic devices.
- The student will be given a second opportunity to correct the problem as the teacher again redirects and reminds the student of the expectation.
- If the behavior is not corrected, then the campus administration will be notified to come collect the phone.
- The phone will be locked away in the campus administrator’s office.
- Parents will be called when a cell phone has been confiscated.
- The phone will be returned once a face-to-face restorative conversation has happened between the campus administrator, parent, and student.

We know how important a phone can be to our students, and we want to minimize the consequences of their actions as much as possible. **How can you help?**

- Talk with your student about digital citizenship and internet safety. Resources are available online at <https://www.gainesvilleisd.org/cms/lib/TX01000879/Centricity/Domain/62/cybersafety%20presentation.pdf>.
- Make sure they understand the new cell phone policy and expectations.
- Remain consistent in your support of our efforts to reduce classroom distractions.

Students and Parents/Guardians acknowledge that

- the schools’ network filters will be applied to a device’s connection to the internet and any attempt to bypass the network filters is prohibited.
- students are prohibited from bringing a device on premises that infects the network with a Virus, Trojan, or program designed to damage, alter, destroy, or provide access to unauthorized data or information, and processing or accessing information on school property related to “hacking”, altering, or bypassing network security policies.
- Gainesville ISD is authorized to collect and examine any device that is suspected of causing technology problems or was the source of an attack or virus infection.
- printing from personal laptops will not be possible at school.
- personal devices must be charged prior to school and run on battery power while at school.

Lost, Stolen, or Damaged Devices:

Each user is responsible for his/her digital property, and should treat it and use it responsibly and appropriately. Gainesville ISD takes no responsibility for stolen, lost, or damaged devices, including lost or corrupted data on those devices. While school employees will help students identify how to keep personal devices secure, students will have the final responsibility for securing their personal devices.

Usage Charges:

Gainesville ISD cannot be held responsible for any possible device charges to your account that might be incurred during approved school-related use.

Network Considerations:

Users should strive to maintain appropriate bandwidth for school-related work and communications. All users will use the “Guest” wireless network to access the internet. Gainesville does not guarantee connectivity or quality of connection with personal devices, but will provide troubleshooting documentation on how to connect with a variety of Operating Systems and devices.

I understand and will abide by the above policy and guidelines. I further understand that any violation is unethical and may result in the loss of my network and/or device privileges as well as other disciplinary action.

Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

Signature of Student Date