



Colleen & Gordie Howe Middle School



Principal: Mr. Dexter Horton
Vice Principal: Ms. Christine Abbot

Office Staff: Mrs. Linda Watson
Mrs. Suzanne Bain

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We are excited to introduce the **Bring Your Own Chromebook** program at Howe Middle. It is our hope that most, if not all, students in selected Pods will be able to participate in our program. In the 2017-2018 school year, several Middle Schools in Abbotsford initiated a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) program. The feedback from parents and teachers in these schools has been very positive. This program provides students the opportunity, at the teacher's discretion and with parent support, to use personal laptop computers for learning in the classroom. We believe that the use of digital technologies to improve student learning is a key part in being an innovative school that prepares students for lifelong learning.

If you have received this letter, your child's teachers are interested in pursuing this program in their Pod. For us to move forward with the BYOD program we need to know how many families would be interested in participating. For the program to be successful we would need a minimum number of students with their own device.

We understand that parents may have questions or concerns around the implementation of this program. ***There will be an information meeting for parents on Thursday, Oct. 11 at 6:00pm in the Library Learning Commons at Howe Middle.***

If you are interested in participating in the Howe Middle Bring You Own Chromebook program, please complete this form and return it to your child's teacher.

Student Name _____ Date: _____

Teacher Name _____ Parent Signature _____

Bring Your Own Chromebook Benefits

- improved access to online resources and digital tools
- enhanced opportunities to learn appropriate digital communication and citizenship skills
- additional opportunities to create digital projects
- access to assistive technology
- ability to collaborate on digital presentations and documents
- improved ability for assignment revision

We strongly recommend a Chromebook for the following reasons:

- Inexpensive (typically \$300-\$400)
- Less than 10 second boot time eliminating wait times at the start of class
- Full school day battery life (8+ hours)
- Portable (typically 2.5 lbs, 0.7 inches thin, 11.6 inch display)
- Full-size integrated keyboard for rigorous academic content creation

- Updates occur regularly and quickly
- No antivirus required
- No software management issues
- Apps and bookmarks can be easily deployed
- Chromebooks emphasize the web as a learning platform

If students already have a device and wish participate in the program with this device, it **must** meet the following criteria:

- **Windows** or **Mac** laptop not more than 4 or 5 years old (Windows 10 operating system or newer; Mac OS X 10.13 operating system or newer).
- Screen size of 9 inches or greater
- Battery that can hold a charge for at least 3 hours
- Internet capability
- Working microphone and webcam
- Charging power cord

Please Note:

1. An expensive laptop (e.g., Microsoft Surface Pro or Macbook Air) is not required.
2. Purchased software is not required as the district will be using the Google Education Suite.