Seneca Valley School District

Tracy L. Vitale, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Parents/Guardians: January 2013

I am pleased to tell you our Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Pilot Program for secondary students, grades 7-12, was a success. As of January 23, the program will be available to ALL secondary (grades 7-12) students, and we welcome your child to join us as we embrace the many educational benefits of technology.

BYOT is a new trend in education that encourages students to bring their own personal mobile technology, including smartphones, tablet devices and laptops, into the classroom to use for educational purposes.

For the first semester, a handful of secondary teachers representing each grade level volunteered to test the program, utilizing BYOT in the classroom. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, so the administration moved forward to introduce the necessary policies that address the allowance of such a program. The following are a few policy parameters as they relate to the BYOT Program.

The Board permits the use of personal technology resources in the following situations:
- *During instructional time:* students are permitted to use personal technology resources during class time **for educational use only** and with teacher permission.
- *During extracurricular time:* students are permitted to use personal technology resources during extracurricular time **for educational use** only and with coach/sponsor permission.

Additional guidelines/procedures have been developed, and more information can be found on the BYOT page of our website. Please visit www.svsd.net/byotguidelines

Students may bring their personal technology devices to school if they choose. Participation is completely voluntary. For accountability, students must register their personal devices at http://byot.svsd.net before connecting to the school's wireless system. After registration, it may take up to 24 hours before the personal device can connect to the SV-BYOT wireless network.

Teachers will determine when the use of personal technology is appropriate for use in their classroom. If personal technology is used as an aid to classroom instruction, the teacher will make use of the technology devices present, possibly pairing students or placing them into groups. Students without personal technology devices will not be excluded from educational activities.

For Internet connectivity, students must connect their personal devices to the school's wireless connection. This Wi-Fi connection is separate from the school's network and allows for **filtered** Internet access only, which is provided at no cost and does not use cellular data plan minutes.

It's also important to note that the use of social media is strictly prohibited for non-educational use, and students will continue to be educated about responsible and ethical use of technology.

We thank you for your cooperation in this effort. We look forward to providing this innovative opportunity for students and staff.

Sincerely,
Dr. Tracy Vitale
Superintendent