

26/01/2021



Dunstan High School

SEEK WISDOM AS GOLD
RAPUHIA TE MATAURANGA HEI TAONGA

Dear Parent/Caregiver

Dunstan High School Bring Your Own Device Programme (BYOD)

We strongly recommend that all students bring a laptop or Chromebook to school to support their learning in the classroom.

At Dunstan High School, we are committed to providing high quality teaching and learning for all our students. It has become clear that learning on an increasingly digital platform enhances the quality of teaching and learning when used well. Across most, if not all subjects, students essentially need a device each, which can be used anytime, anywhere. While Dunstan High School has invested significantly in a range of digital devices, it is evident that we will never be in a position where we have enough devices ready and available for instant access for every student.

Feedback from staff and students, suggests that student learning is enhanced in the following ways:

- Improved motivation and engagement
- Greater ability for learning to be tailored to students' individual needs
- Enhanced opportunity for collaboration
- Greater access to resources and expert support
- Improved critical thinking and ability to be creative
- Greater ability for students to communicate with others, including teachers and parents, thus supporting learning
- Increased speed of academic feedback from peers and teachers
- Enhanced ability to draft, redraw and publish work at the click of a button
- Ensuring work at home and at school is an easy and seamless transition.

Device recommendation

- Laptop or Chromebook
- Windows 8.1 at least or Mac OS X 10.10
- Google Chrome browser (to be compatible with Google online learning tools used frequently at Dunstan)
- 11 inch screen or larger
- A physical keyboard (not part of the touch screen)
- Six hour minimum battery life
- Device should be carried in a robust protective case and some sort of insurance/extended warranty is strongly recommended.
- For students looking at senior courses requiring video/photo editing or access to music or design software, then a laptop, as opposed to a Chromebook, should be considered. This should be discussed with the specialist teacher concerned. For most of our students however, a chromebook is more than adequate.

We recognise that this is not always possible so we will continue to have devices available that can be used by students at school when needed on a day by day basis. At this stage we are also investigating the possibility of leasing school devices which can then be taken home for those who may prefer this option. If leasing is an option you would like to consider, please contact the school on principal@dunstan.school.nz to discuss further.

Other useful information:

Security of Devices: We recognize that this is a concern for students and parents. Lockers will be available and in subjects such as PE, systems will be in place to ensure devices are safe.

Breakages: The school will make every effort to ensure students use devices appropriately. However, the school will not cover the cost of breakages except in cases of negligence from the school. It is strongly recommended that insurance be taken when purchasing devices.

Charging devices: The expectation is that students arrive at school prepared for learning. This includes ensuring devices are fully charged to start the school day.

Cyber safety: The school will have a comprehensive digital citizenship programme in place to ensure students understand their responsibilities as safe digital users. We also have a network filtering system which enables us to track internet use and block inappropriate sites. This will not be foolproof however.

What about mobile phones/ipads?

These are not suitable for the digital learning we are implementing. They may be used in some circumstances but a physical keyboard and an 11 inch screen size is needed.

What if a student is unable to bring a device? We will continue to have devices available for student use and we will need to ensure we have a 'work around' to support all students and their learning.

My child says they need a 'high powered' device and not a Chromebook as their device of choice: We will continue to ensure senior students have access to high-spec machines essential for specific subjects. For the vast majority of our students, Chromebooks will meet requirements through to Year 13.

How many devices will I need to purchase through the five years of secondary schooling? It is possible that after 3 years of use, a replacement laptop/Chromebook will need to be purchased.

Stationery requirements: In some cases, stationery requirements may remain the same although in most subjects, in time, these will be significantly reduced.

What about traditional learning, for example pen and paper and face to face?

We see devices as enhancing learning but are only a tool. Students will still learn for extended periods without devices and there will still be learning that incorporates pen and paper and other non digital strategies.

If you have any queries, please contact me at principal@dunstan.school.nz.

Reece Goldsmith
Principal