

Bring Your Own Device Policy (Grades 6-12)

BYOD stands for "Bring Your Own Device." It is a strategy for providing personal computing in business and education where the end user (employee, student), as opposed to the organization, provides, owns, and maintains his/her own device. It is typical in universities and colleges, and is gaining in popularity in K-12 education and businesses.

Each student in grades 6-12 should provide his or her own device for personal use both at school and at home, with exceptions for families with demonstrated financial hardship.

Access to a computer is essential to learning at Voyager Academy. The student's personal device is considered an essential school supply, just as pencils and paper traditionally have been. Students are required to be prepared at the start of each school day with their fully charged and functional devices. This is considered a part of being prepared to learn.

As with all technology at Voyager Academy, students are required to follow the Internet Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy and the Technology Use Policy when using their personal devices.

Voyager will maintain a sufficient pool of short-term loaner devices for extenuating circumstances, such as a computer being out for repair. Loans will be day-long only. Students who need a loaner should check one out from building administration (usually the building Assistant Principal) before the start of first period, and return it before returning home. The loaner devices do not go home with students unless no other option, such as a shared family computer, is available. If an issue with a student device occurs in the middle of the day, the student may check out a loaner immediately.

Students who are unprepared with their devices will follow the following consequence schedule:

- 1st Instance:** Verbal warning from teacher
- 2nd Instance:** Verbal warning from teacher and parent contact
- 3rd Instance:** Lunch detention and parent contact
- 4th Instance:** Referral to Administration
- 5th Instance:** Conference with student, parent(s), and building administration

Students whose computers are out for repair are exempt from this schedule.

A separate document details device requirements and contains some model recommendations.

The document is available on the Voyager website. Requirements are minimal, and there are many very affordable options that meet them.

Cell phones do not meet the device requirements and are not acceptable as a student computing device.

Furthermore, the use of 3G/4G hotspots on campus is prohibited. Students must deactivate any hotspots while on campus, and must connect personal computing devices to Voyager's wireless network.

In addition to day-to-day schoolwork, students will use their personal devices for examinations, including End-of-Grade and End-of-Course tests, and North Carolina Final Exams. As such, students will be required to install any testing software and make any configuration changes required by the examination platform(s) being used. Voyager staff will assist students in making these changes in advance of test days.

The BYOD program should not be a barrier to learning for any Voyager student. Families who are unable to financially provide a computer for their student(s) should contact the School Social Worker directly.