Portola Valley School District BYOD Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What types of computing devices may my child bring to school?*
Students may use devices that allow them to join the internet to complete school assignments, use PVSD email, conduct research, create content AND that allows full access to the Chrome Web Browser for monitoring purposes.

2. *Can you student bring tablet and/or phones?*
Tablets and phones may be used in the classroom at the teacher's discretion and do not require BYOD Agreement submission as this will only be a supplemental device. BYOD is to supplant existing computing devices in the classroom such as Chromebooks.

2. *Are there any specifications for the type of laptop my child may bring to school?*
Buying a computer is a personal choice. Ultimately, each family will need to choose the device that works best for their child. Generally speaking, as long as the device is able to connect to the wireless network, has a browser and can interact with Google Apps, this should suffice.

Minimum Specifications

Operating Systems	Laptops: Mac OS 10.10 or higher, Windows 7 or higher, Chrome OS
Browser	Current versions Chrome will allow students to use Google Apps for assignments and research.

3. *How can my child's computing device connect to the Internet?*
PVSD provides a wireless network which students may connect to while using their computing devices on campus. They will authenticate with their PVSD Google Apps for Education account. This network is filtered for inappropriate content.. BYOD agreements should be turned submitted electronically on the website. Once completed, they will receive a BYOD sticker from the the Dean of Students. At that time they will be able to begin using their device at school.

4. *Do I need to bring my device everyday?*
Yes. By participating in the BYOD program students are also committing to bring their own devices with them everyday to school.

5. *Are there suggested accessories?*
Students are required to bring their power cord with them to school as PVSD will not be able to support charging. Providing a padded bag or protective sleeve is highly recommended. This will provide more protection for the day to day use of these computing devices. Headphones will be beneficial for students to carry with them everyday for some class work.

6. *What software will be needed on my child's computer?*
No software needs to be purchased unless it does not have a browser. PVSD creates a Google account for every student that allows all students to use the free tools inside the Google Apps suite (Docs, Presentations, Spreadsheets, etc). Because purchasing a computing device is a personal choice, anyone may purchase and use other productivity tools that best suit one's personal needs.

7. *Who pays for the technology brought to school?*
These devices will be purchased by and remain the property of the family.

8. *Who is responsible for any repairs or updating to personal computing devices?*
Students and/or their families are responsible for their personal computing devices at all times. PVSD will support students to complete their assignments with the technology they bring. PVSD technology support staff can not repair or update personal computing devices. Existing computers will be available for student use and a limited amount of loaners will be available for check out.

9. *Who is responsible for damage, loss, or theft of devices your child brings to school?*
Families must stress the responsibilities their children have when bringing their own computing devices to school. Any devices students bring to school are their sole responsibility. PVSD takes no responsibility to search for lost or stolen devices, nor is there any assumption of financial responsibility by PVSD for damaged, lost or stolen personal computing devices.

10. *Will PVSD buy devices for the students? (1 to 1 Device program)*
Thanks to grant and partnership with the Portola Valley Schools Foundation, the district will be moving to a 1:1 program where students will be able to take a device home and utilize throughout the day. Learn more about the Future Ready Program at http://future.pvsd.net/. At this point and time, however, BYOD is a solution that can meet the needs of our learning environments and leverage costs for the future of 1:1.

11. *How does this fit in with the current content standards?*
The Common Core Standards explicitly mentions students will present content using multimedia, complete online research, and develop opportunities for online collaborations.

12. *How will a child's education differ if the family does not have an Internet-connected device to bring to school?*
Many lessons are collaborative allowing students to work together, sharing information accessed through personal devices. When the work is individual, students may use computers and other devices located in classrooms or lab under teacher discretion. BYOD is not being presented as a mandate. Teachers will be flexible to the needs of students if a family chooses not to participate in BYOD.

13. *Our family already signed-off on the the Responsible Use Agreement. Will we need to sign a BYOD agreement?*
Yes. In the future PVSD may merge these documents into one. For now, PVSD is asking families to sign a BYOD agreement with their student that delineates an understanding about cost of ownership, logistics, and technical requirements.

14. *When can my child use the electronic device at school?*
Students may use their electronic device at appropriate times for school work under teacher supervision.

15. *Will my child be expected to use his or her computing device both at school and at home?*

Just as with traditional assignments, some assignments may need to be completed at home on a computer. If there is a computing device malfunction or an interruption of Internet connectivity at home, a student may use computers at school before or after the school day.

16. *Will students be able to print documents from their personal computing devices?*
Reducing the demand for paper copies is important to us and some student projects will be paperless. For student projects that require printing, existing desktop and laptops can be utilized. Not all students will immediately be able to access printers from their personal computing devices at Corte Madera. The Technology Department will look at solutions that would be scalable for the variety of devices on the network.

17. *Where will my child's work and device be stored?*
Students will be encouraged to store their work on their District provided Google Apps account through Google Drive. In so doing, the student will have access to their work wherever they have internet access. All 6-8 graders at Corte Madera have lockers. When the devices are not in the classroom with them, they can be locked up. The district is currently researching computer lockers to be able to store and charge devices.

18. *Our family limits screen time for our kids. Does BYOD mean more screen time for students?*
The devices will be used when teachers deem that it is an appropriate enhancement to student learning. The devices are not intended to minimize the role of the teacher or instruction, but to add a tool that improves teaching and learning. Students may have more screen time in the classroom with BYOD, but it will be for school-related appropriate use.

19. *Will the school district technology team install apps or software on my student's device?*
No. PVSD has no plans to provide software for student's personal devices.

20. *What if my student brings a virus into the network and damage is caused to other devices or district hardware?*
Per the district's Responsible Use of Technology form, students would be in violation if a virus infected device was knowingly brought on campus and joined the wireless network. PVSD recommends staying as current as possible with your devices software updates and/or anti-virus measures. The district Technology Team will work on an incident-by-incident basis to determine if a student is in violation of the Responsible Use Agreement.

21. *If my student brings their own device, will they be safe on the network?*
Students actively searching or linking to inappropriate content will be blocked via our internet content filtering software. The technology team can locate a device on our network in the event we would need to locate it for security purposes. Our network firewall prevents outside computers from interacting with devices on our network.

22. *How are students taught to be safe on the internet?*
PVSD teachers and students have used Common Sense Media to develop digital citizenship skills. Corte Madera's character education also includes a component on appropriate use of technology. PVSD is committed to continuing our instruction on appropriate use and etiquette.

23. *Whom do I contact if I have questions about the BYOD program?*
Please email jborgen@pvsd.net.