Date: March 23, 2022

To: Board of Trustees

From: Shawna Walter, Acting Superintendent

Originator(s): Jonathan Konrad, Acting Deputy Superintendent, Education Services

Subject: BYOD Program Update

Purpose:

For Information.

Background:

There are currently four schools offering Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) programming in Sturgeon Public Schools. Education Services has gathered information from each school regarding BYOD Programs and summarized how the program currently operates, how parents are informed about the program, and how students are supported to make the best use of personal technology at school and at home.

BYOD programs can provide more learning opportunities, but they also come with challenges regarding access and costs to families. Before considering adding a BYOD program, schools should reflect on their goals for technology in learning and engage in open conversation with parents at school council to see what the community envisions for their students.

Administration is prepared to respond to questions at the March 23, 2022, Public Board meeting.

Sincerely,

Shawna Walter, M. Ed
Superintendent

Attachment

Sturgeon Public Schools

Dare to reimagine learning

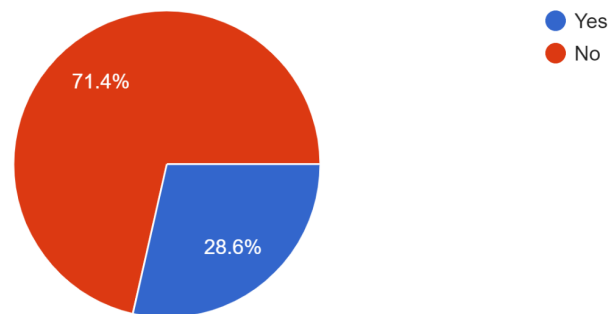# Bring Your Own Device in Sturgeon Public Schools
2022

Background

Over the last few years, laptops, chromebooks, and mobile devices have become affordable and provide users with 24/7 access to ideas, resources, people and communities. Web-based tools and resources have changed the landscape of learning. Students now have at their fingertips unlimited access to digital content, resources, experts, databases and communities of interest. By effectively leveraging such resources, schools can deepen student learning, develop digital literacy, fluency and citizenship to prepare students for the high tech world in which they will live, learn and work.

Bring your own device (BYOD) refers to technology models where students bring a personally owned device to school for the purpose of learning. A personally owned device is any technology device brought into the school and owned by a student or the student's family.

Demographics

Schools Currently Offering BYOD programs

14 responses

- Yes
- No

71.4%

28.6%

BYOD Schools include: Gibbons, Redwater, Namao, and Sturgeon Heights.

Common Reasons why BYOD is **NOT** offered or considered in your school
- Would love to have BYOD. Currently there are a lot of families who cannot afford this expense.
- With the transiency rate of the military we would have difficulty getting students to purchase technology throughout the year. This would happen every year not like other schools.
- Our demographics make it hard to have this program. We have devices for each student and the ones that can afford a device do purchase their own.
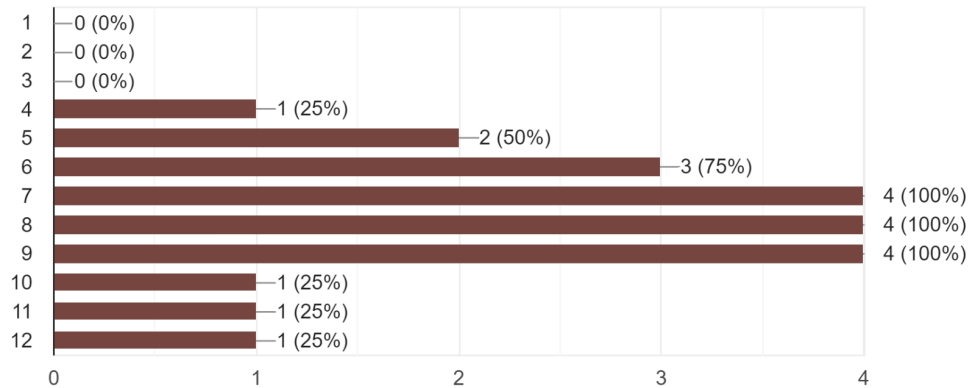
● Students in most of our classes would not use their devices all day. Some of our families would struggle to be able to financially make this work. Students at a younger level would have a much greater chance of damaging the device when it is in a backpack.

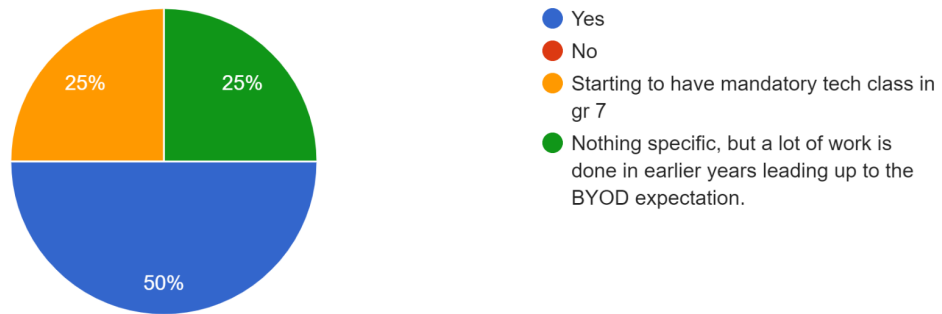## Grade Levels Covered in BYOD

4 responses

Grade	Count
1	0 (0%)
2	0 (0%)
3	0 (0%)
4	1 (25%)
5	2 (50%)
6	3 (75%)
7	4 (100%)
8	4 (100%)
9	4 (100%)
10	1 (25%)
11	1 (25%)
12	1 (25%)

Program Details

Instructional Support

Does your school dedicate instructional time in the first grade level of BYOD for students to understand common software and hardware?

4 responses

- **Yes** — 50%
- **No**
- **Starting to have mandatory tech class in gr 7** — 25%
- **Nothing specific, but a lot of work is done in earlier years leading up to the BYOD expectation.** — 25%

Recommended Hardware

In each of the four schools, a Chromebook is the recommended device.
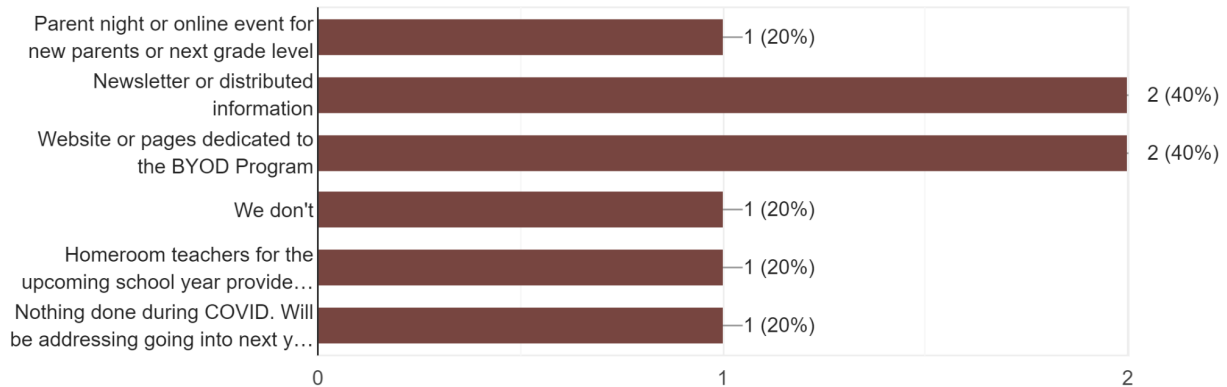
Program Growth and Evolution

- An area of growth we are working on is digital clean up and digital binder organization. We are also working on easy bookmark tabs etc. Our grade 5 teachers do a great job of starting this in the fall.
- Staff have requested that students are bringing and using Chromebooks daily to access Google Classroom in grades 4 to 9. It is the most efficient way to supply work to students who are away for a variety of reasons.

Communication and Support

Parent Communication

How does your school inform parents coming into the BYOD Program? (Check all that apply)
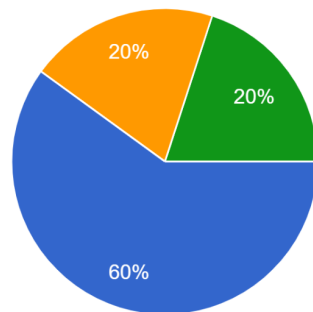5 responses

Response	Count
Parent night or online event for new parents or next grade level	1 (20%)
Newsletter or distributed information	2 (40%)
Website or pages dedicated to the BYOD Program	2 (40%)
We don't	1 (20%)
Homeroom teachers for the upcoming school year provide…	1 (20%)
Nothing done during COVID. Will be addressing going into next y…	1 (20%)

Forgotten Devices or Support for Families who Cannot Afford

Does each classroom have access to spare hardware for students who have forgotten their device?
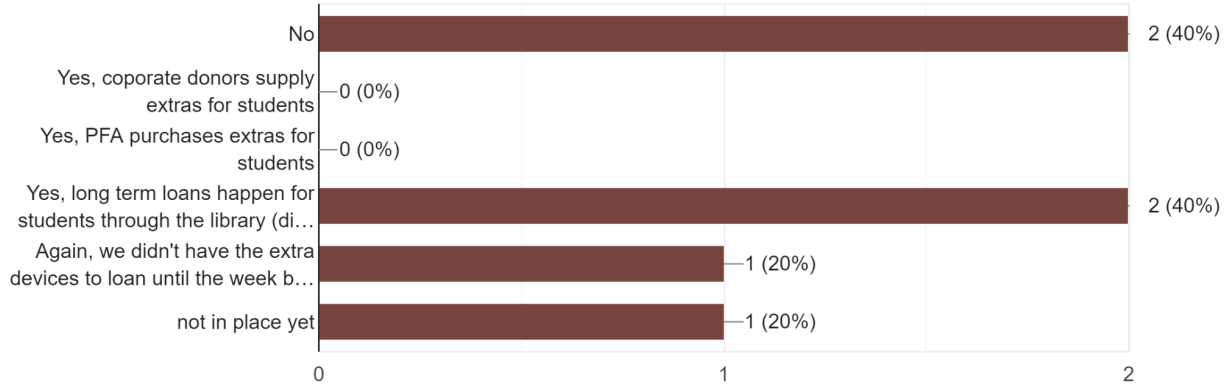5 responses

- Yes — 60%
- No
- We were really limited in extra devices. So this was a struggle. We just received 19 new Chromebooks, so this will really help. — 20%
- Devices are available for sign out in the library for inventory control. — 20%

Does your school have a program that helps families who cannot afford a device? (Check all that apply)

5 responses

BYOD Growth in Division
Planning on considering adding BYOD

Does your school plan on offering a BYOD Program?

10 responses

- ● Yes
- ● No
- ● Maybe