



BYOD Mobile Device Chart

Georgetown ISD Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

The chart below describes many mobile devices, their features, and how they can be useful for teaching and learning. While it would be impossible to describe ALL devices, this chart selects some of the more popular and affordable mobile devices and describes their potential uses in the classroom.

Please Note:

- **Participation in the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program is OPTIONAL.**
 - **Parents/Guardians are NOT asked** to purchase a mobile device or send a mobile device to school with their child.
 - **Students are NOT REQUIRED** to bring a mobile device to school.
 - **If students bring a mobile device to school, they are expected to know how to operate the device on their own.**
- **Mention of a device in this chart does not constitute Georgetown ISD’s endorsement of that product.** This chart is offered for informational and/or reference purposes only. All data in the chart is subject to change.

4 Star Rating

Number of Stars	Rating	Uses	Example Devices With This Rating
4 stars 	Exceptional	Has WiFi capability. Allows students to create, edit, and share documents, videos, and images. Ability to store files on the device or in the cloud.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laptop • Chromebook • Apple iPad • Android Tablet (<i>Google Nexus, Samsung Galaxy Tab, Amazon Kindle Fire</i>) • Windows Tablet (<i>Microsoft Surface Pro, Lenovo Yoga, HP Envy, Dell XPS 12</i>)
3 stars 	Great	Has WiFi capability. Allows for a wide range of creative apps such as pictures, short video clips, and texting. Only limited by account options and the availability of apps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apple iPod Touch • Apple iPhone • Android phone • Windows phone
2 stars 	Acceptable	Has WiFi capability. Usable only for specific purposes, such as reading eBooks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnes & Noble Nook GlowLight Plus • Kindle Paperwhite, Voyage, Oasis
1 star 	Limited	Not appropriate for BYOD Classroom use. May lack WiFi support, difficult to get content on or off the device, or have gaming options.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smartwatches (<i>Apple Watch, Microsoft Band, Android Wear</i>) • iPod Nano • iPod Shuffle • Nintendo 3DS, 2DS • Gaming consoles (<i>Microsoft Xbox One/Kinect, Sony Playstation, Nintendo Wii</i>)

Laptops

Laptops are great productivity devices because they support the same full versions of software applications that are used on desktop computers. They have a large screen and are heavier and slightly less portable than other devices, such as tablets. Laptops have a keyboard and a touchpad mouse, and some have a touch screen.

Laptops are made by many different companies. Consider which type of operating system is installed as you evaluate which will work best for you. Common operating systems are Microsoft Windows, Apple's OS X, Google Chrome OS, and Linux. Laptops that run Google Chrome OS are referred to as Chromebooks, and they are a bit different from other laptops. **Chromebooks** are designed to be connected to the internet. Chromebooks access software that lives primarily on the Web, not on the computer. You cannot install traditional software on a Chromebook, but you can use apps and the Internet to perform most of the same functions you might do on desktops or laptops.

Device	Image	Features	Star Rating
<p>Laptop Cost approximately >= \$275 Find out more at your local retail or computer store</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WiFi access • Larger screen size, not as portable as other devices • Great productivity device, supports same software used on desktop computers • Creativity programs including Microsoft Office suite • Local hard drive storage & cloud storage • Requires anti-virus/anti-malware • Depending on model: Built-in webcam • Web browsing 	
<p>Chromebook Cost approximately >= \$249 Find out more online at http://google.com/chromebook or at your local retail or computer store</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WiFi access • Designed to be connected to the Internet and use apps from Google Play to access software that lives primarily on the Web, not on the computer • Cannot install traditional PC software such as Microsoft Office suite • Creativity programs including online Google apps; may allow access to online Microsoft Office suite. • A personal or GISD Google account is a requirement for using this device. • Local hard drive storage (small) & cloud storage • Requires anti-virus/anti-malware • Built-in webcam • Web browsing 	

Tablets

A tablet is a one-piece mobile device that usually has a touch screen and an on-screen keyboard. Most tablets have Bluetooth compatibility so that you can connect a wireless external keyboard, if desired. Tablets are very portable and lightweight. Consider protecting a tablet with a durable case, such as an OtterBox or Gumdrop case, to protect it from accidental drops or while being carried in a backpack.

Most tablets use apps, rather than traditional software, and apps must be downloaded from a specific online app store. Tablets are great productivity tools, and they have a wide variety of apps that allow students to research information, create original content, and share ideas. As you evaluate tablets, keep in mind that tablets usually have different features and functions than computers (desktops, laptops) do. The exception is a tablet with the Windows operating system: both traditional software and apps can be loaded onto it.

Device	Image	Features	Star Rating
<p>Apple iPad Cost approximately >= \$269 http://www.apple.com/ipad Examples: Apple iPad 4th gen, Air, Air 2 Apple iPad Mini 2, 3, 4 Apple iPad Pro <i>These models are compatible with newest iOS version: iOS 10</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WiFi access • Portable (screen sizes approx. 8 to 12.9 inches) • Download paid and free apps from Apple iTunes App store. (Cannot install traditional software) • Wide variety of creativity apps • Front- and rear-facing cameras for photos, videos, video conference, scan QR codes • Local hard drive storage & cloud storage • Web browsing • On-screen keyboard. Bluetooth compatible for external keyboard. (No USB port) 	
<p>Google Android Tablets Cost approximately >=\$200 Examples: Google Nexus https://www.google.com/nexus Samsung Galaxy Tab http://www.samsung.com/us/mobile/tablets Amazon Kindle Fire Series http://www.amazon.com/firetablets</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WiFi access • Portable (screen sizes approx. 7 to 10 inches) • Download paid and free apps from Google Play store (Cannot install traditional software) • Wide variety of creativity apps • Camera for photos, videos, scan QR codes. Models that have front- and rear-facing cameras are best for video conference. • Local hard drive storage & cloud storage • Web browsing • On-screen keyboard. Bluetooth compatible for external keyboard. Some models have USB port. 	
<p>Windows Tablet Cost approximately >=\$200 Examples: Microsoft Surface Pro Lenovo Yoga HP Envy Dell XPS 12 https://www.microsoftstore.com/store/msusa/en_US/list/category/D.69405000?icid=PC_Category_MoDG_Tablets_05202015</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WiFi access • Portable • Supports same software used on desktop computers, can download paid and free apps from Microsoft store • Creativity programs including Microsoft Office suite • Front- and rear-facing cameras for photos, videos, video conference, scan QR codes • Local hard drive storage & cloud storage • Web browsing • On-screen keyboard. USB and Bluetooth compatible for external keyboard. 	
<p>Apple iPod Touch Cost approximately >=\$200 http://www.apple.com/ipod-touch/ <i>iPod Touch 6th generation are compatible with newest iOS version: iOS 10</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WiFi access • Handheld (4.86 inches x 2.31 inches) • Download paid and free apps from Apple iTunes App store. (Cannot install traditional software) • Wide variety of creativity apps • Front- and rear-facing cameras for photos, videos, video conference, scan QR codes • Local hard drive storage & cloud storage • Web browsing • On-screen keyboard. Bluetooth compatible for external keyboard. (No USB port) 	

Smartphones

Smartphones are similar to tablets. They are handheld and have a touch screen and an on-screen keyboard. Smartphones use apps that are downloaded from a specific app store and cannot have traditional software installed on them. Smartphones are usually purchased through a cellular phone company with a calling, texting, and data plan contract. Consider protecting a smart phone with a durable case, such as an OtterBox or Gumdrop case, to protect it from accidental drops or while being carried in a backpack.

Consider keeping an older smart phone if you upgrade to a new smart phone. The older smart phone has WiFi capability and can be used as a WiFi-only device; it does not need a phone number or SIM card associated with it.

<p>Apple iPhone <i>iPhone 5, 5c, 5s, SE, 6, 6 Plus, 6s, 6s Plus, 7, and 7 Plus are compatible with newest iOS version: iOS 10</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WiFi access • Handheld (5.44 inches x 2.64 inches) • Download paid and free apps from Apple iTunes App store. (Cannot install traditional software) • Wide variety of creativity apps • Front- and rear-facing cameras for photos, videos, video conference, scan QR codes • Local hard drive storage & cloud storage • Web browsing • On-screen keyboard. Bluetooth compatible for external keyboard. (No USB port) 	
<p>Android Phone</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WiFi access • Handheld (variety of sizes) • Download paid and free apps from Google Play store (Cannot install traditional software) • Wide variety of creativity apps • Front- and rear-facing cameras for photos, videos, video conference, scan QR codes • Local hard drive storage & cloud storage • Web browsing • On-screen keyboard. Bluetooth compatible for external keyboard. (No USB port) 	
<p>Windows Phone</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WiFi access • Handheld (variety of sizes) • Download paid and free apps from Microsoft store (Cannot install traditional software) • Wide variety of creativity apps • Front- and rear-facing cameras for photos, videos, video conference, scan QR codes • Local hard drive storage & cloud storage • Web browsing • On-screen keyboard. Bluetooth compatible for external keyboard. USB port. 	

eBook Readers

An eBook reader is a portable device that is used primarily for reading digital books, magazines, and newspapers. Some eBook readers have a Web browser for accessing the Internet, and some have an MP3 player for playing music. eBook readers usually do not have the ability to create content, so they are not ideal for Bring Your Own Device (BYOD).

<p>Barnes and Noble Nook Glowlight Plus Cost approximately >= \$130 http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/nook-glowlight-plus-barnes-noble/1122314015</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WiFi • Portable (6.4 inches x 4.7 inches) • No creation or sharing features • Useful for reading books, magazines, and newspapers • eBook Formats Supported: ePub, PDF, and Adobe DRM ePub and PDF • Graphic Formats Supported: JPG, GIF, PNG, BMP 	
<p>Amazon Kindle Kindle Paperwhite Kindle Voyage Kindle Oasis Cost approximately >= \$80 http://www.amazon.com/kindle</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WiFi • Portable (4.6 inch to 7.2 inch screen) • No creation or sharing features • Limited Web browsing on some models • eBook Formats Supported: Natively: Kindle Format 8 (AZW3), Kindle (AZW), TXT, PDF, unprotected MOBI, PRC; After installing Calibre or another app: EPUB; Through conversion: HTML, DOC, DOCX, JPEG, GIF, PNG, BMP 	

Other Devices

Other devices, such as smartwatches, iPod Nanos and Shuffles, and handheld and full-size gaming consoles, often have WiFi and Web browsing capability. Due to their limited functionality, though, these devices are not appropriate for Bring Your Own Device (BYOD). **Students will not be allowed to bring these devices as part of Georgetown ISD's BYOD program.**

<p>Smartwatches Apple Watch Microsoft Band Android Wear</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not appropriate for BYOD • Watch that interacts with smartphone • WiFi (some models) • Touch screen • Web browsing (minimal) 	
<p>iPod Nano</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not appropriate for BYOD • Listen to music and podcasts • Watch videos • Touch screen 	
<p>iPod Shuffle</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not appropriate for BYOD • Listen to music and podcasts 	
<p>Nintendo 3DS, 2DS</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not appropriate for BYOD • Handheld gaming console • WiFi • Touch screen with stylus • Camera for photos, video • Web browsing 	
<p>Gaming consoles Microsoft Xbox 360/Kinect Sony PlayStation Nintendo Wii</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not appropriate for BYOD 	

If your family is considering purchasing a device to send to school with your child, consider making comparisons using online resources. Visiting an electronics store and using the devices in person may also help you get a better feel for how the devices will work for you.

- CNET Laptop Reviews: <http://reviews.cnet.com/laptops/>
- CNET Tablet Reviews: <http://reviews.cnet.com/tablets/>
- CNET Smartphone Reviews: <http://www.cnet.com/smartphones/>
- CNET eBook Reader Reviews: <http://www.cnet.com/e-book-readers/>

Thanks to Miguel Guhlin, Director of Technology Operations at East Central ISD in San Antonio, Texas, for permission to use and adapt their original mobile device chart.



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