

**Hanalani Schools Lower School  
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)  
On Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)**

**1. Why is Hanalani Schools implementing a BYOD initiative?**

In 2009, we received a “Schools of the Future” grant that set us on a path to integrating 21<sup>st</sup> century skills (creativity and adaptability, collaboration, communication, critical thinking, problem solving, and digital citizenship) into our school program. As we have continued on the journey, we see the value of maximizing available technology tools and devices to help our students become information producers rather than information consumers and creative learners that can communicate and collaborate as highly effective citizens in a digital age.

The history of the BYOD initiative at Hanalani Schools is as follows:

- 2011-12 school year – Students in grades 11-12
- 2012-13 school year – Students in grades 9-12
- 2013-14 school year – Students in grades 7-12
- 2014-15 school year – Students in grades 5-12

For the 2016-2017 school year, students in grades 5-12 will continue to be required to bring their own devices. The school does not plan to have BYOD below grade 5.

The crux of the BYOD experience is that we seek to enhance the student-learning experience through the use of 21<sup>st</sup> century technology tools and devices and to engage and provide students with formal and informal learning opportunities to develop skills necessary for success in our society.

**2. What will be the hardware and software requirements for the laptops?**

Minimum requirements for student laptops/netbooks:

- Processor Speed: 2.0 GHz dual core or higher
- System Memory: 4 GB or higher\*
- Hard Drive: 120 GB or higher
- Wireless 802.11G
- Battery Life: Minimum 5 hours\*
- Operating System: Windows 7 or higher
- Antivirus Software
- Keyboard
- Extended warranty (recommended)
- Built-in camera (recommended)

\*These specifications are new for the 2016-2017 school year.

The school provides Microsoft Office on the devices brought to school by students in grades 5-12.

### **3. How are the laptops used?**

Teachers monitor and give permission for use of the device at certain times in class. Students are permitted to use laptops for programs, websites, and tools specified by the teacher. If a teacher finds a student using a mobile device for off-task activities, the student may lose laptop privileges at the teacher's discretion. Students will use laptops in their core content classes; there are no current plans to use laptops in specialty classes.

At school, devices will be used solely for educational purposes. Students will be able to access their own e-textbooks for some subjects. A primary web 2.0 tool that students will use is Google Apps. Additionally, students will use online programs such as Weebly, Animoto, Glogster, Shutterfly, and Khan Academy.

Students will not be using the laptops for anything with social media. We will be using tools that simulate social media situations that will help teach them effective digital citizenship.

Home usage of the laptops will be the responsibility of the parents/guardians.

### **4. How are the devices secured?**

Students are responsible for their own laptops. Hanalani Schools will not be responsible for theft or damage to students' laptops. To protect devices from theft, students should not share or leave them lying around. During the school day, laptops are in the classrooms, which remain locked throughout the school day. Cases and covers for laptops are encouraged to personalize devices and protect them from damage. Students are responsible for bringing laptops back and forth to school daily.

### **5. Does the school provide a web filter?**

Yes, the school does provide a web filter. Students will use Hanalani's student network for internet usage. The content will be subject to our filter system, which meets the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Students must adhere to the Lower School BYOD Policy, which will be available on the school website and will be reviewed with the students on the first day of school, and the Responsible Computer Use Policy, which is specified in the Parent & Student Handbook.

### **6. Are students in grades 5-6 mature enough to care for a laptop?**

In many independent schools, students have been bringing their own devices for several years now. In some, students as young as kindergarten are expected to take care of a digital device. In fact, one of the largest independent schools in the state started their 1:1 program with fourth grade students. Children rise to the expectations that we set for them, and we believe that students of this age can care for a laptop.

**7. Why doesn't the school provide the laptops?**

Schools that provide laptops or other digital devices for students have much higher tech fees, thus, passing on the cost to the students and families. The school has looked into the option of purchasing the laptops; however, the prices that the school pays are similar to the prices that parents pay in the marketplace. The current BYOD policy allows families the freedom to select a device of their choice that fits the minimum requirements.

**8. Will students be allowed to charge laptops at school?**

Students will be required to have laptops fully charged at the beginning of each school day. A full charge at the beginning of the school day should be sufficient for the use of the laptop at school.

**9. How will connecting to wi-fi work?**

After going through an initial connection that takes several steps, students should be able to easily connect to the school wi-fi. The Elementary Technology Coordinator will assist students with initial connection to the wi-fi.

**10. Can my child bring a tablet, such as an iPad?**

We can best support students who have Windows-based netbooks or laptops. Therefore, tablets will not be allowed at this time.

**11. There are so many devices out there. How do I know which one to get?**

Nearly any Windows-based laptop or netbook that meets the minimum requirements will be acceptable; however, we have found that some specific devices will not work. In particular, Chromebooks and Surface RT's are not allowed due to their limited functionality. Apple devices are not recommended because we can best support Windows-based devices. If you are not sure what device to purchase, feel free to call the Elementary Office at 625-0737 ext 451.