

BHMSD 1:1 Digital Learning Initiative – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

(This document is subject to change as we move through the process – last updated on August 20, 2019)

1. What is the 1:1 Digital Learning Initiative at BHMSD?
 - All students will be immersed in a technology rich environment, which motivates, engages, and challenges students to learn 21st century skills, as it will be an integral part of virtually every aspect of daily life.
 - Students in grades K-4 will receive an iPad, and students in grades 5-12 will receive a Chromebook.
2. What is the purpose of the 1:1 Digital Learning Initiative?
 - The mission of the Bluffton-Harrison M.S.D. 1:1 Digital Learning Initiative is to use technology effectively to increase student engagement thereby increasing student achievement in all areas.
 - At BHMSD we feel technology is a tool that can enhance learning and allow students to grow into 21st century learners.
3. Did the school district research and visit other school districts that have already implemented 1:1 initiatives to help with decision-making?
 - Absolutely. BHMSD formed a technology committee that included administrators, teachers, and technology staff members from all three schools that met on a regular basis to discuss the best options for the district. In addition, the committee has made many phone calls, e-mails, and visits to outside school districts to assist in our decision making process.
4. Will students be able to take their devices home?
 - Students in grades 5-12 will be able to take their Chromebooks home with them each night.
 - Students in grades K-4 will leave their iPads at school in their classroom except during the inclement weather season when e-learning days will most likely be needed..
5. When will I get my devices and what do I need to have to pick it up?
 - Students will receive the devices during the first week of school.
6. How much will students be charged for textbook/technology fees?
 - In grades K-4, students will have a yearly textbook fee of \$120. Students who qualify for financial aid will have this fee waived.
 - In grades 5-12, students will have a yearly textbook fee of \$165. Students who qualify for financial aid will have this fee waived.
7. When do we have to pay our Textbook/Technology fees?
 - Textbook/Technology statements will be issued in late August and payment in full will be expected within 30 days.

8. What if the student is unable to pay the Textbook/Technology fee within 30 days?

- BHMSD will work with all students on payment plans (see below).

BHMSD Payment Plan			
	September	October	November
Payment Amount (K-4)	\$40	\$40	\$40
Payment Amount (5-12)	\$55	\$55	\$55

- We also encourage all families to apply for financial aid if they believe they may qualify.

9. Will the students in grades 5-12 be able to take the Chromebook home over the summer break?

- No. The Chromebook will be collected on the last day of school so that they can be upgraded with new apps, cleaned, and repaired if needed.

10. What happens if my device stops working?

- The BHMSD Technology Department will be responsible for all repairs. A request will be made to the technology help desk and they will be responsible for repairing the device. Depending on the issue, the student may be provided with a loaner device while their device is being repaired.

11. What insurance or warranty is provided for the device?

- No insurance is provided; however, BHMSD is providing an extended product warranty for the remaining years of rental.

12. What happens if my device is physically damaged?

- The [BHMSD Student Internet and Technology Responsible Use Policy](#) outlines the repair and replacement process for physically damaged devices.

13. What happens if my device is lost or stolen?

- If a device is lost or stolen at school the student must immediately notify a teacher, administrator, or BHMSD Technology Staff. **The earlier school personnel are notified, the greater the chance of it being found.**

14. What if a student doesn't have Internet at home?

- Teachers are aware that not all students have Internet access at home and will provide accommodations when necessary for students without home Internet access.
- There is free public wireless Internet at the BHMSD Campus, Wells County Public Library, and area restaurants.

15. How will my student be protected while on the Internet?

- While the device is on an Internet connection provided by BHMSD, access will be filtered to meet federal guidelines, as has been our past practice.

- While the device is on an Internet connection provided outside of BHMSD, students must login to our filter to be able to access online content. They will have the same filtering policies outside of BHMSD as they do while at BHMSD.

16. What happens if a student leaves BHMSD during the school year?

- Students will be required to return their assigned device along with the power adapter. If the device is found to be in good working order only showing normal wear and tear, nothing else will be needed from the student. Depending on when the student leaves, they may be eligible for a refund of the textbook rental fee minus any costs for damage. Any device not returned to BHMSD upon leaving will be considered theft and reported to the Bluffton Police Department.

17. If we have our own device, can we use that and not pay the for the BHMSD one?

- No. We cannot allow students to bring their own devices due to the difficulty in distributing applications and managing various types of devices for more than 1,600 devices within the school district.
- The district will have replacement devices available if a student were to experience downtime due to technical or hardware issues.