BYOT – Elementary e-Reader Program FAQs

The York County School Division (YCSD) recognizes the importance of technology in the personal and educational lives of students. YCSD continued their Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) program at middle and high schools, and launched an eReader program at the fifth grade this year. Beginning February 19, 2013, we are prepared to expand the e-Reader Program to grades three and four in our elementary schools.

Who may participate?

Third and fourth grade students may participate if they have a signed Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) and YCSD Student/Parent Policy for use of a Privately Owned Electronic Device form on file with the division.

What types of devices are allowed?

Students may use any privately owned e-Reader device, including but not limited to, a Nook, Kindle, iPod touch, & iPad.

All devices should be permanently marked with identification information and/or a cover or case that is easily identifiable by the student owner.

What accessories may be needed with the device?

Headset/ear buds
Backpack/protective case

Students will not be required to add any apps or software applications to their device to accommodate classroom use of the device while at school.

How will students charge personally owned devices during the day?

Students will not be able to charge their personal devices during the school day and should bring a fully charged device to school and put it in sleep mode or turn it off when not in use.
How will safety and security of the devices be provided?

Students are ultimately responsible for the security of their personal device. No portable device should ever be left unattended. When not in use, the device should be with the student or in a secured location.

Unattended devices will be turned in to school administration.

Per school division policy, YCSD is not responsible for loss, damage or theft of any personal electronic device. Any loss, theft or damage is the responsibility of the student and parent/guardian.

What happens if a student cannot bring a personal e-Reader to class?

e-Readers are an alternative to traditional print books for reading. Students may continue to bring their own books from home to read as well as check out books from the library.

Who will provide training for teachers and students?

Educational Technology staff will provide training to teachers on acceptable and appropriate use.

Teachers will provide training for students on acceptable use of the devices.

Students are expected to be able to use and properly store their devices. YCSD will not provide basic training on usage.

Are third and fourth grade teachers required to allow students to use personally owned devices in the classroom?

Yes. Teachers determine when the use of privately owned devices is appropriate and will make those times known to students who have met participation requirements.

Who will provide technical support?

No division staff will provide technical support or troubleshooting for personal devices that malfunction. Students should have a thorough understanding of their own devices and how they operate.
Will the division's Wi-Fi network be accessible by personal electronic devices?

Although the network is accessible, elementary students may not access the network from their e-Reader. This program is designed for e-Reading downloaded books only.

Will Internet security be provided as a precautionary measure?

During this program, students are prohibited from accessing the Internet. However, the York County School Division will take precautions to restrict access to undesirable or inappropriate materials using firewalls and filtering applications on the wireless network.

Elementary teachers and staff will monitor e-Reader activity and will pursue appropriate disciplinary actions based on the Student Conduct Code or criminal statutes as appropriate for any violations.

Should students access the Internet via private service providers like Verizon or AT&T?

Students are prohibited from using 3G or 4G wireless access to the Internet using private subscriptions through their own Internet Service Provider and should turn off that service prior to entering school with a personal device.

When can special device features, for example video recording, be used?

No unauthorized use of the device will be permitted. The only approved use of these devices during this program is as an e-Reader during independent reading.

What policies will govern this grade three and four BYOT eReader initiative?

All rules and regulations set forth in School Board policy, the AUP, BYOT Parent/Student Policy Agreement, Student Handbook and Code of Conduct and applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations will be enforced.

Review the AUP at: http://yorkcountyschools.org/docs/forms/A-6.pdf