

Answers to BYOD Questions for Citizens Web.

1. In what classes are you using BYOD?
 - Concepts in Math, AP Calculus AB
 - Accelerated Psychology
 - English 11, English 12, Critical Viewing
 - AP Physics (Mech and E&M), Honors Physics
 - English 10, Honors 11, Public Speaking

2. How are you using BYOD in your classroom?
 - I am still in the very early stages of BYOD. So far I have used it for students to access my website and for students to respond to multiple choice questions.
 - I am using Chromebooks/personal devices on the public network to create a blended environment with backchannel discussions, video lectures, online quizzes and more.
 - Students utilize their smartphones to participate in various Web 2.0 learning activities. I use Web 2.0 learning games to assess and review grammar and vocabulary, back channel chat websites to check for understanding during class, and discussion boards to promote virtual discussions of literature.
 - Students are emailed solutions and other classroom material from instructor. Students will frequently open up the documents on their phone or tablet to assist during class. This is most common while going over solutions as support or while working in small groups.
 - Students are able to use their phones for looking up information pertinent to class discussion. They may also use their phones for research on class assignments.

3. What devices are students bringing and how many students are bringing them?
 - My students use their smartphones. Just about every student has a device to use.
 - Smart Phones, iPads, Laptops, tablets, and Chromebooks.
 - Students utilize their smartphones with almost 100% use in class. There are some times when students forget their phones or they are not properly charged.
 - Primarily mobile phones. A few students use tablets.
 - No student is bringing any device beyond their smart phones, unless they are using a kindle for assigned text. 1 student has chosen to use a kindle device for class texts.

4. What pros and cons are you seeing?
 - I really think this program can be a unique teaching tool. When students respond to questions on their phones, I can get immediate feedback on their comprehension. I know what they understand and when I need to review. My website allows students to have access to classroom resources while they are working at their desks. Occasionally, I do have to redirect students away from distractions on their phones such as texting. It does take time to learn what programs are available and how to use them. I am still learning about all the resources available to me. We had an in-service before Thanksgiving that gave me time and instruction on some uses for BYOD. I also am attending a workshop on iPad apps this year. Finally, it takes time to get the programs downloaded onto your computer or iPad. After putting in a big a web ticket, you

have to wait for approval from the department coordinator and then a purchase order even if it is a just a \$1.99 app.

- PROs: Every student has immediate access to their work without going to a library/lab. I am able to have my students engage in technology based activities I would not otherwise be able to do. Students are learning 21st century skills that will be useful in college and the workforce. It reduces the use of paper and photocopies. Students have 24-7 access to the tools and resources that we are using in the classroom and the ones that they use at home. So, very few assignments are “left behind” or incomplete because of a snow day or absence. Increased student engagement in the subject matter. Having MS365 can help with the varying word processing software used by students on different devices, but see cons about this below. Students have 24-7 access to me for assistance.
- CONs: It requires a lot of preparation time and technology prowess on the part of the teacher to prepare for and troubleshoot issues. Wi-Fi and broadband in the building are not always reliable and will cause problems on some devices, but not others. The filter on Public Wi-Fi 33 does not allow access to some of the necessary sites/activities. Students and Teachers need to be innovative & flexible because almost none of my lessons work as planned due to technological difficulties. The need to charge devices and having a lack of charging locations throughout the building can be a problem. Classroom management is different, requiring different strategies of teachers and responsibilities for students. We have not received training on MS365 and all of its features have not been opened for use at home and within apps. My students have 24-7 access to me for assistance.
- The pros are that it drastically and immediately increases enthusiasm and participation in classroom learning. Students want to learn through 21st century methods, and my experiences are that they respond appropriately and maturely to this type of lesson design. I don't have any cons.
- The BYOD system allows me to save a tremendous amount of paper. Students appear to be very comfortable using their device in the classroom. This also allows me to send up to the minute updated solutions or materials. If there is an error in a solution, I am able to correct and send immediately. The only negative I have found is that this may become too easy of a path to send material, allowing a teacher to send too much review to eager students. A teacher needs to have a sense of “over-kill” and not send too many “practice tests or problems home.” An honors student may feel the need to do all of it and never sleep. At the same time, students email teachers asking for more, more, and more. Both need to learn a balance.
- Pros are the easily accessible internet and information. A lack of computer availability does not inhibit students' ability to do research. Cons are the potential for distraction. Students start researching and are focused appropriately but end up texting or using “chat” apps before the period is out. There is a lot of “I was just going to...” and before you know it, they've wasted 10 minutes.

5. What recommendations would you have?

- I would love to see the district offer more teacher training and support with the program. Particularly, if the district had a position where someone was a full time technology coach. This person would be available to help teachers both plan and implement technology such as BYOD into their lessons. I also think the process for buying and updating iPad apps needs to be streamlined. It would be ideal if the department coordinator could just have an iTunes gift card and we could download our own apps without having to go through a big web ticket every time.
- I would recommend creating an instructional technology coach position at each high school available to work with teacher & students. This instructional technology could help teachers who are having technology difficulties by being called in real time without waiting for a ticket for when the lesson is over. The coach could also pair up with teachers to help them create lessons and model classroom management techniques through co-teaching. The coach could also provide assistance to students who may have technology questions or need advice on how to trouble shoot a problem. This tech coach could also assist students in on-line classes and help monitor students during their online “free-periods”.
- I also believe that we need better Wi-Fi___33, more broadband, and charging stations. We also need more training with MS365.
- I believe that we need a technology helpline... someone you can call if you are having a problem for students and staff. A “crazy” idea of mine is to create a partnership with a local university’s technology program and have college students from those programs man a helpline you can call, email or face time.
- I recommend using Web 2.0 tools for any planned activities. Web 2.0 tools are typically free and can be accessed by everyone regardless of what kind of device they have.
- Teachers to collaborate in their findings and material. Guidelines in what should be permitted in an email. What should and should not be included in an email from student to staff and staff to student. A line needs to be drawn to prevent either student or staff becoming too casual with communication. I have found it easy to manage and guide students how to email an instructor (great practice for college). This could be supported in an electronic etiquette course offered to students at the elementary level!!! Someone needs to teach children what is acceptable and what is not. No child is too young to begin learning.
- Keep experimenting to see the ups and downs so that they can be addressed beforehand. That is what I have done about the texting and “chat” apps. Students do stay off of the apps, but they seem unable to help themselves from texting.