



GETTING PARENTS ON BOARD THE MOBILE TRAIN

Mobile learning may be a new frontier to you, but it might be even more foreign to parents who don't work in the field of education and technology. To allay any potential concerns about allowing devices in the classroom, or to thrill them — some may be excited at the thought that their children will be mastering digital skills — consider outlining your academic goals and policies when it comes to cell phones, tablets, and other devices. Be clear about expectations, financial and otherwise, so parents can support their children at home. And consider polling parents for their favorite apps — they, too, may be able to participate in your vision of connected and interactive learning.

OTHER RESOURCES ON BYOD AND THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

The Innovative Educator encourages asking the salient questions about BYOD: bit.ly/Ponf7c.

MindShift covers technology revolutionizing education and shares “How to Launch a Successful BYOD Program”: bit.ly/OVyKfH.

Georgia's Forsyth County Schools is a public school district that has been implementing a BYOT program. They share valuable resources online: bit.ly/NPdfRt.

To address the issue of equity, see Edutopia's “Digital Divide Resource Roundup”: bit.ly/rDINOa.

Some questions you may hear from parents:

1. What types of devices are you allowing?
2. What if my child doesn't have any of the gadgets you plan to use?
3. Will it cost us anything?
4. Are these devices really necessary to your curriculum? How do they add to, or improve, learning in the classroom?
5. Will the knowledge my child gains become obsolete as apps morph over time?
6. How can I help my child become a responsible user of mobile devices?

Some articles parents may benefit from reading:

“Making the Case for Mobile Computing” (Education Week) bit.ly/RQZgpu

“Amidst a Mobile Revolution in Schools, Will Old Teaching Tactics Work?” (MindShift) hbit.ly/HizklD

“Expert Interview — The Joan Ganz Cooney Center on Mobile Learning” (Common Sense Media) bit.ly/PMZVsv

“How the iPad Can Transform Classroom Learning,” (Edutopia) bit.ly/NhLKNx

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