



The Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family

SAINT MAROUN'S COLLEGE

ABN : 45 424 360 064

*An independent Catholic co-educational college in the Maronite tradition,
committed to excellence in education, friendship, faith and honesty.*

ST MAROUN'S COLLEGE

BRING YOUR OWN DESIGNATED DEVICE (BYODD) 2017

Frequently Asked Questions

In 2017, St Maroun's College will continue a Bring Your Own Designated Device program (BYODD) for students in Year 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 11, expanding to years 4 – 12 in 2018.

In this document you will find a series of questions that you may have about the BYODD program, along with answers or guidelines.

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1. About our BYODD Program

What is BYODD?

BYODD stands for Bring Your Own Designated Device. The main advantage of BYODD over traditional BYO laptop programs is that teachers, parents and students can be assured that they are equipped with a piece of technology that is appropriate for the curriculum being delivered in the classroom, and has the capability, performance and reliability to match the educational demands that will be placed upon it.

Why BYODD for St Maroun's College?

The college believes that the BYODD program provides students with access to expanded, global resources and content, as well as online digital learning. It will also give students the opportunity to take ownership of their learning and approach to creative problem solving.

When does the BYODD program commence?

The BYODD Program at St Maroun's College commenced on Day 1 of Term 1 2016, and continues into 2017 for the nominated year groups. It is strongly recommended that devices be acquired pre-Christmas in 2016, to ensure readiness for the beginning of the school year.

Which year groups will be included in BYODD?

All students enrolled in Year 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 will participate in our BYODD program in 2017. This is not an optional, or 'opt-in' program for these year groups. Students are required to bring their device every day, or at their teacher's discretion. Students in other year groups may opt-in to the program in 2017. The BYODD program will be expanded to all year groups from 4 – 12 at St Maroun's College in 2018.

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2. About the Designated Device

Why have you chosen the designated devices available for purchase?

We have carefully chosen four (4) different model devices for parents' consideration, based on hardware specification, reliability, battery life and warranty support. They will meet the demanding needs of daily use in the classroom, for the duration of the 3-year warranty period. Generally, retail devices only include a 12-month warranty and repairs outside of this warranty can be very expensive. Devices purchased through the BYODD portal should avoid this.

Can I buy an alternative device not listed?

Yes, parents may choose to purchase an alternative device. However, to ensure the device will perform adequately and function correctly on the College Wi-Fi network, there are strict guidelines that need to be adhered to. To assist with this, a BYODD Hardware Checklist has been created for parents to print and take to a computer retail store. This form is available at the end of this FAQ document, or on the college website BYODD page.

Can we use a laptop we already own?

The aim of the program is to ensure ALL students are equipped with reliable, high-performing devices to aid their learning environment. It is imperative that no student is disadvantaged by having a device that lacks the reliability or the performance to meet the demands of daily use. St. Maroun's College discourages the use of older, less-reliable devices. If your device is less than 2 years old, and complies with the BYODD Hardware Checklist, we ask that you complete the online application form for approval. If your device is over 2 years old it will not be approved for use and is not appropriate for our BYODD program.

Should I purchase a MAC or PC device?

Broadly speaking, there is no reason to choose one over the other, it just comes down to personal preference. Because we want students to take ownership of their learning experience, we encourage students to be comfortable with, and enjoy using their chosen BYODD device. With this being said, college academic and IT staff strongly suggest that if your child is not familiar with using a Mac laptop, then a PC laptop is a better choice.

Will I need to purchase specific software?

Initially, a list of free software resources will be made available to students for download, including access to Microsoft Office 365. As the BYODD program matures, it is likely that certain software packages or online e-books may require purchasing by families. The current software requirements are available on the College website BYODD page.

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3. Technical Support

Will the school provide technical support for BYODD devices?

Yes, the St. Maroun's College IT office will be available to assist students with basic issues like connecting to the College wireless network and to troubleshoot minor issues. We do, however, encourage students to take responsibility for the care of the device and to become self-sufficient in managing software and the setup of their device.

How do we organise warranty repairs if needed?

The 4 devices available through the online purchase portal are each covered by a 3-year on-site repair warranty. Should a warranty claim arise, St. Maroun's College IT will facilitate warranty repairs on behalf of families. We will arrange for a technician to attend the College and ensure the repair work is performed correctly. This service is ONLY available for devices purchased via the online portal, with the appropriate warranty. If you supply your own BYODD device outside of the purchase portal, you will need to arrange warranty repairs yourself.

Will a loan device be available if needed?

The college IT office has a small pool of loan laptops available for students who are without a device due to warranty repairs. Loan devices are not available for any other situation that may arise, such as battery running flat, or your BYODD device being left at home.

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4. Using the Device at School

Will the school provide Wi-Fi access?

Yes, access to the Wi-Fi network at St. Maroun's College is made available for all BYODD devices. Once a device is removed from the college grounds, Wi-Fi is not available. When used at home, connection to your home Wi-Fi / internet will be necessary.

Will there be internet filtering at St Maroun's?

We have internet content and application filtering at St. Maroun's College, providing a safe online environment for all students. Inappropriate websites containing age-restricted material, potentially harmful material or illegal content are not accessible. In addition, social media sites are also blocked whilst on campus.

Will there be internet filtering at home?

Internet content filtering only applies to BYODD devices whilst they are connected to the college Wi-Fi network. Once a BYODD device is removed from the college grounds and disconnected from the College Wi-Fi network, internet filtering becomes the responsibility of parents. If parents have concerns about internet content filtering at home, the College can individually configure a BYODD device to apply the same filtering policy whilst at home, utilising your home internet connection. The college IT office can assist with this.

Will I be able to charge the battery of my device at school?

No. Due to Work Health Safety issues, the recharging of devices will not be available at school. Students are required to bring their device to school fully-charged at the start of each day. Loan laptops are NOT available should your BYODD device run out of battery power.

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5. Teaching and Learning

How will I use the device in class?

The objective of our BYODD program is to provide students with the opportunity to collaborate, communicate and research on a global level in real time. Currently our teachers use various teaching styles, which range from written to online tasks, where students are expected to research, collaborate and produce digital content using various online tools available. As our BYODD program develops, this will become more fluid and prevalent.

Will I use the device in every lesson?

No, technology will only be used when appropriate and as an aid to learning. Technology is only one of many tools used in modern pedagogy.

How will the BYODD program improve learning?

Technology allows students to create and research content much more readily. The communication and collaboration offered through online tools such as Google Apps and Microsoft Office 365 can enable students to gain a deeper understanding of what they need to do, when creating their own content.

Will students become too dependent on computers?

No, technology will not replace a well-rounded education. Electronic devices are an aid to education, and one of the many wide spectrum of tools used in classrooms.

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