



May 2019

Dear parents/guardians of students of Grade 9 and 10,

At the core of student learning is the intersection of teacher knowledge and pedagogy with the meaningful use of technology. Avon Maitland District School Board (AMDSB) is very proud that the Next Generation Learning (NGL) project has provided portable technology to all of our Intermediate students. Our research has found that the devices have enhanced student engagement by developing global competencies and support student's comfort and proficiency with digital literacies. Your child has been part of the NGL initiative for several years, and it is our hope that they have benefitted from these enhanced learning opportunities.

From the outset this initiative was intended to support students in the Intermediate grades, that is to say students from grade 7 to 10. For the 2019-20 school year AMDSB will continue to provide personalized technology, and specifically iPads to all students in Grade 7-9. As your son or daughter is transitioning into grade 10 or 11, their learning will no longer be supported through the deployment of an individualized device. We have found that as students move into these higher grades, that they are wanting to develop skills and proficiency with diverse and varied technological tools. While the iPad supported student learning, we are looking to expand student comfort and proficiency with other tools. As a result, we will continue to support schools and students by providing them enhanced access to various technological tools such as iPads, laptops and desktop computers. However, these tools will be neither individualized nor available for take home.

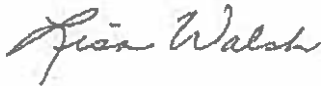
As technology use plays a more and more significant role in learning, it is reasonable that some students would prefer to use their own personal devices (tablets, laptops, smartphones, etc.) at school. As such, the Avon Maitland District School Board has implemented a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) procedure to supplement the technology already available in AMDSB classrooms. For more detailed information specific to this section, please refer to **AP 161: BYOD (Bring Your Own Device): Use of Personally Owned Computing Devices on School and Board Networks** (<http://bit.ly/AMDSBAP161>). Several factors need to be considered to ensure that BYOD in AMDSB is successful, safe and equitable, and does not compromise the security and efficiency of our networks. Personally-owned devices are to be used for educational purposes during instructional time in AMDSB sites. This privilege is not intended for personal entertainment and other activities of a personal nature. Students under the age of eighteen (18) are to seek parental permission before bringing their personally-owned devices to school. It is the device owner's responsibility to ensure that the device is functioning properly and security patches and antivirus software for the device are up-to-date. AMDSB is not responsible for performing diagnostics, repairs or updates on personally-owned devices.

At this time your family can choose to return the iPad (along with charging adapter and cables) that your child was assigned or you can purchase the device from us. If you choose to purchase the iPad, we will be asking for \$100, which represents the fair market value recovery cost for the device. You would assume full responsibility for the device and will be asked to complete a form that provides you with full ownership of the tool. AMDSB will no longer service or support the device if you choose to assume responsibility for it.

Students are asked to submit an electronic payment through School Cash (available from May 13th to June 9th). Office staff can support families to sign up to make electronic payments for the devices.

Please feel free to connect with your school administrator if you have any questions or concerns about this process. Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to refine our practices in support of your child's learning in AMDSB.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Walsh".

Dr. Lisa Walsh
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board