

East Lake School - Personally Owned Device Initiative **(Grades 6, 7, 8 and 9)**

What is the primary goal of this initiative?

In the 2015-16 school year, we implemented a one-to-one personally owned device initiative with our grade 8 and 9 students. Due to the success of this project, we extended the initiative to our grade 6 and 7 students for the 2016-17 school year. *As the students move up to grade 6 next year, we encourage them to have a laptop for school for the 2017-18 school year* (see standard requirements at <https://www.rockyview.ab.ca/techsupports/pods/best-practices/laptop-standards>).

Our vision at East Lake School School is to inspire all learners to be brave problem solvers who embrace challenges, explore possibilities and grow through creative and innovative learning experiences. Our mission statement emphasizes the desire to for all our students to excel in the never ending process of learning, while striving to build skills that are necessary for future success. Digital tools are a part of our students' world. Blending their desire to use these tools with appropriate strategies and skills is key. By training students to properly use digital tools for research, productivity, and innovation, we enable them to have a seamless transition to high school and to be prepared for a variety of work experience possibilities.

Why move in this direction?

There has been a surge of research related to the role of technology in the daily lives of students. Dr. Sharon Friesen, a leading researcher in the area, believes five core principles must be followed to engage today's learners:

1. Effective teaching practice begins with the thoughtful and intentional design of learning that engages students intellectually and academically.
2. The work that students are asked to undertake is worthy of their time and attention, is personally relevant, and deeply connected to the world in which they live.
3. Assessment practices are clearly focused on improving student learning and guiding teaching decisions and actions.
4. Teachers foster a variety of interdependent relationships in classrooms that promote learning and create a strong culture around learning.
5. Teachers improve their practice in the company of peers.

Surrounding and infused into each of these five core principles is the effective use of the technologies. It is undeniable that the face of education and the role of technology are changing rapidly.

How does this initiative align with the divisional and school education plans?

Our current School Education Plan, which is closely aligned to the divisional Plan, strives to support learners as they become self-directed and engaged. As we strive to fulfill our mission of being forward-thinking and building skills for future successes, the move to the seamless inclusion of technology in learning environments is paramount. Our school believes that this initiative will help create a culture where the seamless integration of technology with curricula provides a learning environment rich in information and modes of communication. You will notice a device will be included on the school supply list. Where this is not possible, alternate arrangements can be made through the school. ■



East Lake School

Principal:
Ms. Ragan Johnson

Asst. Principal: Mme Leslie Waite
Asst. Principal: Mr. Jason Billings

How will student computers be supported?

Families will be responsible for upgrading software, and for keeping devices charged and ready for use. Please understand that we do not have the capacity to charge and support all of the devices at the school. At the school, we will teach the students how to use the programs and software that are needed for their specific learning activities in the classroom however, support is limited to providing access to the network and appropriate systems. Maintenance and compatibility of the devices remains the responsibility of the student and family.

How will computer theft be addressed?

East Lake School strongly recommends parents insure their student's computer through home insurance. Permanent identification of the machine, via engraving or ultra-violet (UV) marking, is recommended. It is important for students to keep their valuables secure when not needed for classes. In the event of theft or damage, East Lake School will not be held responsible for the costs incurred.

What other technologies will be used through this initiative?

As a staff, we will be using a Google classrooms and/or a platform called Moodle. Moodle is a closed virtual learning environment, a 'shell', in which teachers and students may interact with one another. Students must be registered in the shell, and each will have an individual password. The teachers will be using one or both of these platforms to post lessons, video links, discussion forums, assessments, etc. The school's website will continue to provide access to resources, assignments and school information.

Who can I contact for more information?

If you have any questions contact East Lake School eastlake@rockyview.ab.ca.

Divisional POD guidelines can be found on the Rocky View website:
<https://www.rockyview.ab.ca/techsupports/pods/best-practices/laptop-standards>

Alberta Education guidelines adhered to by RVS can be found on the Rocky View website:
<https://www.rockyview.ab.ca/techsupports/pods/howto/BYOD%20Guide%20FINAL.pdf>