Overview

Bring Your Own Device, BYOD, in the school environment allows students to utilize their personal mobile devices for educational purposes, from note taking to teacher created activities.

View the following resources to guide teacher implementation of devices from planning, implementation and reflection.
Planning

1. Decide the type of activity. What goals do you have for the students?

2. Determine the devices students can access. Create a short survey (print or online) asking about the types of devices student will be bringing.

3. Discuss the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) with students and add any other expectations you have for appropriate technology use in the classroom.

4. Develop procedures and routines in your classroom for when devices are/are not in use. Some teachers use statements like “devices down”.

5. Communicate with parents about the use of devices in the classroom. Keep parents up to date through the classroom web page, School Messenger, Edmodo or other communication tool.

6. Determine if a mobile device is best for the activity. For example, is a keyboard a necessity? Do students need a larger screen? Is the video in Flash and not viewable on a mobile device?

It is highly recommended that apps used in classroom instruction are selected from the approved list. Apps on the approved list have been tested on the Blue Valley network and function as expected. Content contained within the approved app is not blocked by the district’s web filter. Click here to view the approved list.

Encourage students to try to access the Blue Valley Wi-Fi several days prior to the activity. If students are having trouble, troubleshoot any issues or contact the Ed Tech Team or IT help desk for information.
Students who access web-based materials, e-books, or assignments while utilizing their personal 3G/4G network may incur charges on their cellular plan. Charges incurred by accessing a personal cellular data plan are the responsibility of the student.

The district is not responsible for any damage, loss, or theft of the personal, mobile electronic device.

**Is your device charged?**

Charge your device each night to be ready for school the next day. The district will not provide charging stations in the classrooms.

**Are you on the Blue Valley Wi-Fi?**

Students are required to use the BV network and log in using their Blue Valley username and password.

**Are you able to choose the BV wireless, but not seeing a log in screen?**

Go to the devices web browser and open a web page. The log in page should appear. Type your Blue Valley username and password.
Types of Devices

**Cell Phones:** Students can text message. Many devices will have a camera feature. (Flip phone or phones without advanced capabilities)

**Smart Phones:** A smaller scale of a tablet, the Smart Phones allow students to text, take pictures and videos, access apps and the Internet, and of course, make phone calls. (iPhone, Samsung Galaxy)

**eBook Readers:** Allows users to read electronic versions of print books. Many have options to access newspapers and the Internet. (Kindle, Nook)

**Portable Media Players:** Many allow wireless access to the Internet to access media and the web. Note-taking capabilities exist as well. Depending on the type and version, some provide a camera. (iPod Touch)

**Tablets:** Access the web and educational apps. Users can utilize camera and video features. Note taking capabilities exist as well. (iPad, Microsoft Surface)

Accessing Wi-Fi

View the following guides provided by IT for accessing the Blue Valley Wi-Fi, BV.

- [Android](#)
- [Apple Devices (iPhone, iPad, iPod)](#)
- [Windows Devices](#)

Not seeing a device listed? Contact the Ed Tech Team.
Suggested Activities

The following chart provides apps and web sites based on the device and activity. Many smart phones and tablets can access the Internet through a web browser on the device if the app version does not work. See the troubleshooting and FAQ section for additional information.

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*(G)* - a step-by-step guide

* Paid account required.
Sample Activities

Use QR Codes and Collaborative Notes

After utilizing the initial planning checklist, the teacher determines how the mobile devices can enhance the instructional activity. The teacher prefers to enhance the class discussion about an article by adding ideas and comments to a Padlet, a collaborative tool where users can post notes to an online bulletin board. The teacher creates the bulletin board from a laptop and shares the link with students through a QR code. She also posts the web link address on the board.

In groups of two or three, students access the Padlet. Each group needs at least one member with a mobile device. Students scan the QR code to begin adding content to the Padlet. Once complete, the teacher reviews the Padlet with the class noting any misconceptions and important ideas.

Padlet | Guide
QR Codes | Guide

Information Gathering and Collaboration

When introducing a new topic, the classroom teacher divides the class into groups. Each group is assigned an area to locate additional information. Students scan QR codes to the library databases and begin searching for information. After ten minutes, students generate a summary sentence regarding the information found and post in Edmodo. Students then read each post to compare the information.

QR Codes | Guide
Library Database | Guide
Edmodo | Guide

Let us know how you are integrating devices into your instruction. Contact us at @BVEdTec.
FAQ/Troubleshooting

1. **How do students access the Wi-Fi? What if a student device will not connect?**

   View the guides for the type of device. If the device is not listed, contact the Ed Tech Team for assistance.

   If the device will not connect after following the directions, turn the device off and turn back on. Then follow the connection directions again. View the troubleshooting information provided on the device’s website as the next step.

2. **What are the options for students who do not have a Wi-Fi device?**

   For students who do not have access to a personal device, teachers can provide school laptops.

   Teachers can also pair students with others who do have a device.

3. **How does a teacher handle discipline when the technology is used inappropriately?**

   Following the building student handbook and Acceptable Use Policy, consult the building administrator for suggestions and building policies.

4. **A website will not load on a mobile device, but the website is accessible from my laptop.**

   Some websites will not work on a mobile device. This usually happens when the website uses Flash. Flash does not work on Android or Apple mobile devices. Utilize the building laptops or desktop computers to complete the activity.

   Educreations is an example of a website that will work on a laptop, but users cannot access the videos from the web browser on a mobile device. Educreations uses Flash with their videos. However, users can create and access content through the Educreations app.

5. **The QR code does not work when scanning from a mobile device.**

   First, check the URL of the QR code result or set up.

   Does the QR code take the user to a website that requires Flash? If so, it will not work on a mobile device. This often happens with Teacher Tube, a video storage site. The QR codes provided on Teacher Tube take a user to the Teacher Tube website, which uses Flash. Videos cannot be viewed from the mobile device.
6. How can students view videos from their mobile devices?

With an Apple device, users can view videos from Dropbox or Google Drive without downloading the video. Once a user shares the Dropbox or Google Drive link to the file, users can access without a Google Drive or Dropbox account. For other devices, users will be prompted to download the video. For more information about using Dropbox, click here. Click here to view details about Google Drive.

7. How will teachers learn to use every different device?

Encourage students to access the device manual for specific issues. Students are great at helping each other troubleshoot issues as well.

8. A teacher placed a video on Safeshare.tv for students, but they cannot access. Why not?

Safeshare.tv takes a YouTube video and deletes the unnecessary ads and unrelated content. However, the video still plays through YouTube. In the district, YouTube is blocked from student access. Place the video in another site like Google Drive or Dropbox.

9. When students try to access a website, they get a log in box.

If a student has not connected to the BV Wi-Fi, they will be prompted to log in using their Blue Valley credentials. They should only need to do this one time.

10. My device is connected to the Wi-Fi, but an app like Socrative will not open.

Students may need to first open a web browser and go to any website like ESPN. This prompts the content filter log in for students to type their Blue Valley username and password. After doing so, students can return to the app.