

Dear parents of students entering Grade 7 through 12,

The new school year is approaching. We are looking forward to a great year for students and families. The early indications are very positive.

As cited on the Supply List Grades 7 through 12 participate in the BYOD program at Broadwater. Studies show that the technology skills of students engaged in laptop programs within schools improved significantly during the course of the study and we have seen that repeated in our classrooms, as well.

The primary requirements of each student's device will be as follows:

- Input must be through a keyboard (iPads **do not** meet this requirement)
- The device must run the Chrome web browser

Because most of the students' work will be done using Google products (Docs, Sheets, Drive, e.g.), there is not a pressing need for an expensive or elaborate level of laptop to fulfill the requirements. Many students have been well satisfied with the line of Chromebooks available. Although we cannot endorse particular brands or vendors, a glance at the Best Buy website will usually show multiple models on sale for under \$250. That being said, virtually any working laptop made in the past several years should be more than adequate.

Be aware as you make this choice that each student, not Broadwater, will be responsible for the good running condition of the device. Particularly important will be that the device needs to be charged conscientiously in anticipation of use for most of the school day. Broadwater cannot be expected to keep a stock of the myriad types and specifications of chargers, and substitutions of chargers not specifically for the device could do irreparable harm.

Lastly, our broadband capacity is essential to our efforts. Although the bandwidth and speed are excellent, the cost continues to rise, therefore, we must continue to have a technology fee. The Technology Fee for 2018-19 academic year will be \$100 per student which covers part of the cost of our broadband internet connection which is so vital to the student's educational experience.

Thank you for your time, and please do not hesitate to email Reid Hall (rhall@broadwateracademy.org) with any questions you may have. We hope you have a relaxing and safe remainder of the summer.

Sincerely,
Joseph Spagnolo

