

FAQs for the 9th Grade BYOD Class

- **Will the 9th graders have an orientation about using technology in the classroom?**

The students will be introduced to computers (how to handle them properly and for academic purposes) by the class and subject teachers. At the beginning of the school year, 9th grade students will receive a computer contract and guidelines, which they will discuss and sign with the class teacher.

- **Who is the contact person at school with technical (hardware & software) start-up problems?**

The first person to contact is the teacher where the problem arose. If the class or subject teacher can't solve the problem, our system administrator Alex Suero should be contacted.

- **Are the textbooks available online?**

The number of textbooks available online is still very limited, and generally the publishers then require the school to purchase the (hard copies) of the books as well. As the school purchases new class sets, online versions will be used as they are available.

- **Are all the teachers involved professionally trained?**

Teachers participate in professional development throughout the year and are continually learning new ways to use and implement technology in their classrooms. Every teacher has participated in two training sessions on technology in the classroom and several other teachers attended more than those two. For years our teachers have been using technology and digital media so this BYOD class is not new territory for them.

- **Is the equipment covered by a special insurance policy?**

Since students and teachers are using their own private devices, the school cannot provide any insurance coverage. Insuring private devices, even if used in school for educational purposes, is not common in the USA.

- **Who is responsible for the maintenance and care of the computer?**

The parents (or students) are responsible for the care and maintenance of their devices. There may be manufacturing guarantees and warranties; however, those are not managed by the school.

- **Would it be possible to negotiate a "group discount" on the part of the school, as many families will be buying the equipment at the same time?**

The school is not purchasing the equipment, but under certain circumstances would be willing to look into a group discount. However, the discount would most likely be small and comparable to the discounts often offered at local electronics chain stores. The

disadvantages of the school purchasing the equipment/negotiating a discount must also be considered (for example, tax deductibility and guarantee claims, when the school's name rather than the family's name appears on the receipt).

- **Are there lockers for the 9th graders so that the equipment can be stored carefully when not in use?**

There are enough lockers in the corridor of the Upper School for students to use. Students can sign up for a locker in the front office.

- **Are students' data that is entered into the digital classbook secure?**

The data is stored on the servers of the company Gruber & Petters, which runs the WebUntis system. There is a data protection declaration which complies with the German requirements for data security and confidentiality. Access to the pages is through the secure transmission protocol HTTPS, which banks also use to transfer account and credit card data. All entries and queries are password-protected.