

Dear Parents,

Our class is ready for the privilege of bringing in devices! There is a lot to discuss here so if you still have questions after all this- I'm happy to address it.

Probably the first item to address is, **what if I don't have a device or I don't want my child bringing such an expensive item to school?** No problem!!!! The students have access to technology in third grade 1:1. We have access to one device per child. In our own classroom, we always have 13 devices ready to use. One of my favorite things about ECS as parent is that we respect the views of parents in a way most school can't or won't. If you aren't in favor of your child being responsible for such a device or your child having their own device isn't a priority in your family- we support you as well and there is no pressure for you to change that.

That being said- if you have a device for your child to bring to school (and I'm talking about Ipad, ipad mini, ipod, nook, kindle, etc) I would recommend it being in a **durable case**. This again is your choice, but I know I don't bring anything to school that isn't protected (and has the ability to be wiped off!) . Also, we don't really have the ability to have a bunch of devices on chargers all day. Devices should come ready to be used. Thirdly, I am pretty familiar with apple products, but I'm not with other brands. If your child is not familiar with the device they are bringing, I can help only to the best of my ability. If you need to come in before school and work with the device to get it online for them, we can make arrangements for that. We have wifi access available for them.

There are **two super important items to note**. They are the deal breakers for third graders. The device they bring must have the ability let the student **read books**. I recommend overdrive, through the public library, which allows you to download books for free. Also, these books must be ready to go, already downloaded and in the format that allows for reading. I don't want to be responsible for the content that is downloaded; this is a safety measure for both of us. Other things that students can use their device for include, taking AR tests, accessing the class website for spelling city, checking the newsletter, reading articles or at certain times, playing education games. I will help them book mark the class website and the AR test website and link it to their front page.

The **device is not for game playing or other off topic work**. 3rd graders are pretty limited to what they can use their device for in school. Anything sharing pictures and videos with friends, watching you-tube videos, searching the internet, checking texts, playing games, accessing social media, etc would not be allowed. I have talked with the kids about using their dojo points to purchase the ability to play games on their device during indoor recesses, but the same rules apply as to the class computers during that time. **Should students have their device out, in use, at a time they have been asked not to, are caught using it in an off task manner, they will lose the privileged to bring their device to school.**

Students are not allowed to have their device out at arrival or dismissal time while they are in our care.

I'll add to this as questions arise!

-Beth Moore