miDevice Guide

Uses and Acceptable Devices

amazon

Bring Your Own Device

The Mobile County Public School System has created this publication as a guide for parents, teachers, and administrators wishing to participate in the miDevice (BYOD) initiative. The information in this document will hopefully enable everyone to understand how devices can be used in a classroom and to help parents make informed decisions concerning the selection of a device for your child.

Classroom Uses
Moving to a digital classroom

If you choose to allow your child to participate in the miDevice initiative, there are many uses for devices at every level of education. The following categories describe only a few uses of a personal device. Please consult your school and teacher(s) for specific uses in your child's classroom.
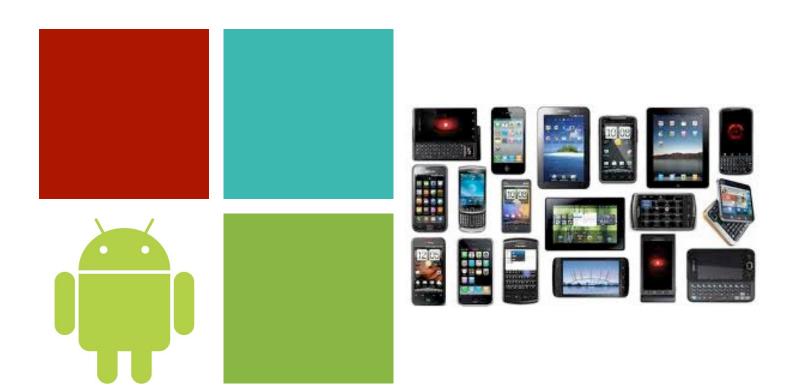
Elementary School

- Accelerated Reader
- Math in Focus (ThinkCentral)
- Abdo Digital
- Big Universe
- Ticket to Read
- Tumble Books
- E-Reader or Textbooks
- Handwriting Apps
- Email
- Video Projects
- Journals
- Digitial Storytelling
- Flash Cards
- Smart VE

Middle School

- Smart VE
- E-Reader
- WebQuest
- Google Docs
- Calculator
- Email
- Calendar/Assignments
- Camera for supporting science evidence in reports or projects
- Dictionary or Word Play
- Audio/Podcast Recordings
- Journals
- Research
- Study/Review/FlashCards
- Accelerated Reader

High School

- Research
- Track Data: Weather/Stock Market
- Online Simulations
- Video Conferencing
- Spreadsheets and Databases
- Google Docs
- Cloud Storage: Digidrive/Dropbox/Evernote
- Unit Converter
- Accelerated Reader
- Smart VE
- Video Documentary
- Email
- Mobile Group: Teacher Twitter Announcements

Android Devices

Versions 2.2-Current

The Android operating system was first released to the public in the form of a cell phone in 2008. Since then, many companies have developed both phones and tablet computers that run the Android platform. Of course, your child may use a cell phone for the miDevice initiative, however, if your concern is the visibility of the screen size, then you may also consider investigating tablets as well.

If you are considering a device for your child that runs Android, please make sure that the operating system is version 2.2 or newer.

The list to the right is by no means comprehensive of all the devices that run Android, but merely a suggested list to get you started in your device search.

Remember…..Android Version 2.2 or newer!

Google	Samsung
Acer	Lenovo
Sony	Motorola
LG	Toshiba
Asus	Archos
Nabi	

Known Issues with Android Devices

Android Versions 1.0-2.1 do not support Adobe Flash Player. Flash is a product that allows viewing of multimedia content on mobile devices and computers….for example, content such as video, animations, games, and 3D graphics.

Unfortunately, many of the cheaper devices that are available from retail stores may be running an older version of Android (1.0-2.1). Please investigate these cheaper devices because the best bang for your pocket book may not prove to be the best device for your child.

Why do you need Adobe Flash? Just as mentioned above, the Flash player will allow your child to access digital content that could be in the form of videos or interactive content. In younger grades, some schools have purchased curriculum programs that have a digital component. Tumble Books, Ticket to Read, Abdo Digital, and Big Universe are a few examples – all which require Flash. These programs currently do not have Apps available, so the need for Flash on the device is required.

One specific device that we have encountered issues with is the Nabi and Nabi2. This device presents problems with the Mommy/Daddy Mode. In Mommy/Daddy Mode, parents use Android, version 4.1 (aka Ice Cream Sandwich) without kid-safe restrictions. Nabi Mode is a kid-safe environment that children cannot exit without a parental password. All of the accessible content in Nabi Mode must be

preapproved (white listed) in Mommy/Daddy Mode. Parents, if you purchase this device, send it to school unlocked, in Mommy/Daddy Mode. The device will be allowed on the MCPSS's heavily filtered network, which restricts children from accessing inappropriate content on the internet.

Kindle
Fire and Fire HD

The Kindle Fire is available in four different versions; each designed to suite your budget: Fire, Fire HD, Fire HD 8.9" screen, and the Fire HD 8.9" with 4G LTE. The Kindle Fire series is a step above the original Kindle in that they have a web-enabled browser, which will allow full internet access. The Fire's also run on the Android operating system.

Although the Fire does run Android, there have been issues with Adobe Flash. On the Kindle Fire, Flash player is installed, however there is an option to turn this feature on or off. Listed in the next column are the steps to enable Flash on your Kindle Fire.

Go to homepage

Select WEB

Tap the bottom of the screen

Select Menu – square horizontal lines

Select Settings

Select the arrow next to Enable Flash and select "Always On"

Kindle

The original version of the Kindle, not the Kindle Fire, is a great device for reading books. However, it is not a web-enabled device. These devices WILL NOT enable the user to access the internet through an internet browser!

Apple
iOS Devices

Apple Devices

The iOS device list for Apple is rather simple.

iPad Mini: the newest addition to the family.

iPad: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or future Generations

iPod Touch

iPhone: 3GS, 4, 4S, 5, or future versions

Of course, your child may use an iPhone for the miDevice initiative, however, if your concern is the visibility of the screen size, then you may also consider investigating iPads as well.

iOS

The operating system for the mobile Apple devices is known as iOS. We recommend that you update your device regularly, particularly when Apple releases a newer version of iOS. The most current version is iOS 6.

Known Issues

Apple does not support Adobe Flash Player. They will never support Adobe Flash.

Why do you need Adobe Flash? The Flash player will allow your child to access digital content that could be in the form of videos or interactive content. In younger grades, some schools have purchased curriculum programs that have a digital component. Tumble Books, Ticket to Read, Abdo Digital, and Big Universe are a few examples – all which require Flash. These programs currently do not have Apps available, so the need for Flash on the device is required.

Laptop Computers

Any laptop running Windows XP, 7, 8; or an Apple computer running OSX should be fine for your child. Specific issues will be addressed as problem occurs.

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The Technology Special Projects division for the Mobile County Public School System has assembled this publication in hopes that it will assist parents and schools when planning and preparing for the miDevice initiative. We consider this to be a living document, so as new schools begin this initiative, updates will be made to further educate all parties involved.

Parents – please make sure to check with your child's school to determine which devices they may recommend based on the school system's curriculum requirements.

Administrators – please communicate with curriculum heads to determine if their programs have digital components that may have special device requirements.

Everyone – if you have questions, please check our miDevice page, under the Information Technology page, on the MCPSS website.

This document was created by Jody Clements and Amy Donovan, Technology Special Projects