



November 12, 2014

Re: Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Privacy

Wadsworth City Schools has had a long-term technology goal to offer students the privilege to bring their own electronic devices to school. These devices would serve as another tool in their education. Toward that end, we have been extensively working on large-scale technology projects for the last 16 months to make this possible. We are incredibly proud to have just started our BYOD program at the High School, Middle School, and Central Intermediate School for the 2014-2015 school year.

Some students and parents have raised concerns about protecting their child's privacy while they use their device at the school on our network. We would like to put those fears to rest and assure you that we have kept the privacy of student-owned devices in the foreground throughout all of our planning and work.

When a student brings their device (laptop, tablet, smartphone, iPod, etc.) to school, they use their district-assigned username and password to access the WCS-Student network. This is the same username and password that they use to log into school computers currently. Once this is done, their username is tied to their device in our network.

Below are examples of what the technology department and district administration have access to when student devices are on the WCS-Student network:

- What type of device it is along with their username
- Where the device physically is located in the school building
- What Internet websites the device has visited

This information is needed not only for the protection and safety of our students, but also to protect the network of the district at large by ensuring appropriate usage is being followed. Our technology department has taken a great deal of additional time to set up our structure in such a way as to protect students' privacy. The entire BYOD rollout would have been far simpler to require software to be installed on student devices, but it would not have afforded the privacy that students have currently.

Here are some examples of what we cannot do by the BYOD system's design:

- We cannot use GPS technology to track the device's location off of school property
- We cannot see what Internet websites the device visits while off of school property
- We cannot remotely take over control of a student device
- We cannot see what apps or programs are installed
- We cannot install or uninstall apps or programs
- We cannot turn on the microphone
- We cannot turn on the camera
- We cannot read or intercept messages (SMS, iMessage, etc.)

Thank you for your continued support of the Wadsworth City Schools.

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