



Medina City Schools
Recognizing Potential Maximizing Achievement

Technology FAQs

I hear that the high school and middle schools now have wireless networks. Is that true?

The high school is wireless and the middle schools are currently being outfitted for wireless. Our goal is to have the middle schools completely wireless by the start of the next school year.

Who can access the wireless networks?

Anyone with a wireless device will be able to access the wireless network through the Guest Network, which only allows access to Medina websites, such as medinacityschoolsdistrict.org, medinarec.org, and medinaoh.org. Students and MCS staff members will be able to access the wireless network through a secure login, using their traditional network username and password.

If students can log onto the wireless network, what safeguards are in place to protect them?

All Internet activity that is conducted at MCS is filtered through our Information Technology Center (ITC) which is responsible for ensuring compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). CIPA requires school Internet access to filter out obscene, pornographic, or harmful materials. These are the same safeguards and filters that are in place when students and staff members are accessing the Internet from a regular network computer.

Since students can access the wireless network, will they be able to bring in their own technology?

Yes, students can bring in their own devices, including laptops, tablets, such as iPads, MP3 players, such as iPods, eBook readers, such as Kindle and Nook, and cell phones.

We do not have an unlimited data plan, how will this impact my child?

All mobile devices, cell phones included, must sign onto the wireless network with the appropriate username and password. Once a student signs onto the wireless network, they are no longer using their data plan to access the Internet. Students may even go into the setting on their mobile device and turn off cellular data and/or 3G as a safeguard.

Does this mean that my child needs to have a cell phone to use in class now?

Absolutely not. Our wireless infrastructure was designed to enhance learning opportunities and to integrate student owned devices into the curriculum. Teachers will be working on integrating student owned devices into their lessons, but no teacher will require that students have their own device.

Why the shift to allowing student owned devices in the schools?

Technology is an increasing part of our world and students must be adept at using technology to succeed in their world. The average cell phone today has more memory and processing power than the computer module that controlled the Apollo 11 space mission. It makes good sense to harness the power that students are carrying with them and teach them how to use their technology to enhance and expand their education. Learning should not end when the bell rings and by utilizing student owned devices we are able to teach students how to responsibly become mobile learners.

When are students allowed to use their own devices?

Students are allowed to use their own technology in classrooms, with teacher permission, and in study halls for educational purposes. This does mean that they should not be texting or making phone calls with their cell phones. Mobile device use is limited to educational purposes only during the school day.

What are the MCS Board and school policies surrounding the use of the wireless network and student owned devices?

Copies of MCS Board Acceptable Use Policies and the Reasonable Use Agreement, which students must accept before accessing the network, can be found on the district website at

<http://www.medinacityschooldistrict.org/site.cfm/Administration/Technology-Department/Technology-Plans.cfm> or by following the path from Administration -> Technology -> Tech Plans & Policy.