



Pete Deyo

3759 Silver Lake Rd., 49684, MI Traverse City

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Subject: BYOD

Dear Superintendent Kirk,

While Gary Stager call BYOD the worst idea of the 21st Century, I might argue that there were a few other governmental choices and policies relating to foreign policy that have had far greater negative impact than BYOD. In spite of his somewhat overblown statement he has a point, "The only way to guarantee equitable educational experiences is for each student to have access to the same materials and learning opportunities". BYOD as much as guarantees continued economic and cultural inequality. One could rename it BYOC (Bring Your Own Caste). Furthermore, all of the articles which you site fail to acknowledge the fact that mobile devices are built to consume; not to create.

A general purpose computer is designed as a tool that the user can put to work on just about any task. However, mobile devices are crippled by their own operating system and their ecosystem of applications controlled by the creators of those operating systems. They are designed to consume media, not to create it. As a public school it is our moral imperative to instill the importance and skills of human creativity in our students.

Thus, I believe our position should simply be this; to provide students with equal access to general purpose computing, an understanding of the technologies workings, and a path to affordable ownership of that technology on completion of its support-cycle to insure the students continued growth in our society.

Sincerely,

Pete Deyo

WMS Art Teacher