"Technology is nothing. What's important is to have a faith in people as basically good and smart, and if they have tools they like, they'll do wonderful things with them."   –Steve Jobs, co-founder of Apple, Inc.

"Art challenges technology, and technology can inspire art."   –Todd Siler, artist, author, educator, and inventor

"What technology is really about is better ways to evolve."   – Sherry Turkle, MIT Initiative on Technology & Self

Dear new ASFA families,

To keep up with the growing demand for technology devices, while maintaining approachable, ongoing per-student spending, ASFA implemented a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) initiative in 2014 made possible by infrastructure improvements. Currently students bring and use their own technological devices on campus every day, and we believe that continuing in this direction will be the best way to accommodate the diverse needs of our student population and faculty.

This decision was not made lightly or hastily. Our process was deliberate by design. After exhaustive research (including on-site visits to other schools, professional exchanges of information and experiences), the school's leadership endorsed the technology committee's proposal to implement this BYOD approach. ***So, what exactly does this mean for new ASFA families and students?***

- o All students are **required** to bring their own devices to school every day.
- o Students and their parents must carefully and thoroughly **read all of the information** provided on the school's **website** concerning **requirements, recommendations and options**. On the ASFA website, select "Explore" > "Policy & Procedure" > "BYOD" then follow and read all related links.

It is important that ASFA families understand what this initiative is and what it is *not*.   It is not a technological revolution, rather an *evolution*. That is, it has not affected a dramatic and sudden change to our school culture. Some instructors call on students to use their required devices frequently, others only occasionally. All students having devices has facilitated a *gradual* increase in how easily instructors can use free, online materials and how effectively students can process notes, store important documents and access class work and texts.

Students' lives today are filled with technology that gives them ubiquitous access to information and resources, enabling them to pursue their interests in their own way and at their own pace. The opportunities are limitless, borderless, and instantaneous. Our continuing BYOD requirement is one we feel that is appropriate and not unnecessarily overwhelming for students and teachers. A guiding principle that has been useful for us is this: *Let's not create a school culture in which we expect more from technology and less from each other.*

Sincerely,

Dr. Bradford Hill
Director, Curriculum & Instruction