



2 November 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

Information regarding textbooks and electronic devices for 2019

1. 21st century learning at Curro

The Fourth Industrial Revolution is upon us and our world is evolving exponentially. Industries have already benefitted from the previous Digital Revolution in automating processes and are now starting to leverage emerging technology breakthroughs in fields such as artificial intelligence, robotics, the Internet of Things, 3-D printing, biotechnology and quantum computing.

This is not just a reality globally, but also for South Africa where both private and government sectors are already rethinking how they do business and run their organisations. This will have a major impact on our workforce, not only changing things for the better, but also compelling us to ensure that our society is equipped with the relevant skills to participate productively.

Curro ensures that learners are prepared for this evolving world when they leave school. This includes academic success and having essential knowledge, as well as skills and attitudes to embrace the unknown and forge a path to being contributing and happy citizens in our country and globally.

Technology is one of the enabling factors in helping our learners to construct knowledge and develop critical skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, complex problem-solving, digital literacy, computational thinking, meta-cognition, motivation, resilience, reflection and empathy.

Although technology now plays a more important role in learning than ever before, the role of the educator is equally important in ensuring the creation of innovative, 21st century learning opportunities for the development of these skills. There is still a place for pen and paper and other non-technology learning tools, and we don't expect any of our educators and learners to be using technology for every activity. It should be used when it is the right tool for the job and enhances or provides an opportunity for learning that cannot take place without the technology.

Using technology and incorporating opportunities for the development of skills also does not mean that we exclude what may be viewed as traditional or outdated teaching approaches such as direct instruction – some areas of the curriculum are best covered using this method.

Our educators are provided with ongoing professional development opportunities to ensure that they are equipped to offer the most inspiring and effective learning opportunities for your children. To create innovative learning interventions, the school plans on leveraging competent educators and technology to complement the solutions outlined below that we will be using in 2019.

2. Devices

To enable high-quality learning, we need to put tools in the hands of the learners. Devices are important tools to aid a variety of activities – ranging from viewing and interacting with digital content, using games for learning, researching, collating and evaluating data, collaborating and communicating with other learners, creating and sharing artefacts or presentations, coding, robotics and a multitude of other activities.

In 2019, we will expect all learners to bring their own device to school to aid the learning process from Grade 4 to Grade 12. There is a wide variety of devices to choose from, with many different specifications and form factors. It is important that you review the Curro device requirements explained in the “Choosing the right device” brochure when purchasing a device for your child. The parent may buy the device from any supplier and it must have the Windows 10 app.

3. Textbooks

Textbooks are a resource that aid the learning process and provide access to the essential knowledge that learners will need. A textbook is, however, one of many tools that aids the learning process. In 2019 our school will be adopting the following approach to textbooks:

Hard copy and eBooks – learner choice

All learners will be required to purchase either **hard copy textbooks** OR **eBooks** depending on their personal preference. Guardians will receive a list of textbooks and guidance on how to make eBook purchases through the MyHub portal. Hard copy textbooks can be purchased from Simply Everything or any other bookstore that has the prescribed textbooks. Even if you choose hard copy textbooks, we still expect all learners to bring their own devices to school from Grade 4 to 12 – we see the true value of the use of technology not only in the access to content by means of eBooks but also in researching, collating and evaluating data, collaborating and communicating with other learners, game-based learning, creating and sharing artefacts or presentations, coding, robotics, assessments and a multitude of other activities.

Some subjects may have workbooks that are only in hard copy version – parents are required to purchase these.

4. eLearning

Curro offers a blended learning environment to ensure that learners receive the best range of learning opportunities, both using technology and activities that may not require technology but will assist in developing other skills. In 2019 our school will be making use of the following eLearning solutions:

eLearning model

ITSI Pro

ITSI Pro offers a comprehensive blended eLearning solution with off-line access to all eBooks, an integrated platform to seamlessly share educational resources such as multimedia files, notes and images and self-created content, tools for sharing newsletters, an integrated calendar, templates to create assessments and receive instant feedback, classroom activity monitor, roll-call, flashcards and access to learning and critical thinking tools. Real-time user analytics provide valuable insight into learners’ study behaviour and can be accessed by parents, educators and heads.

The purchasing of ebooks through ITSI will be from 12 November 2018.

If you are purchasing your child’s stationery through GRIT, kindly ensure that payment is made to the school by the end of November 2018.

Yours in quality education,

Dr S Lalla