Dear Parents and Guardians:

This year, we will be officially launching Powering Up Students. Powered Up Students is about students bringing their personal digital WiFi capable devices to school and using them to enhance learning. We ask that you support this initiative by having your son/daughter bring their chosen device to school when requested by their teacher. While the devices will not be used in every class on a daily basis, we do plan to incorporate more and more as the year progresses.

By expanding the effective use of technology at school, we will assist students to understand the importance of good digital citizenship, creating a positive digital footprint, how to use technology for learning. While there are aspects of personal digital device use that can also be distracting to learning, we will help students develop acceptable and responsible use.

Powered Up Students is not requesting the parental purchase of digital devices. Devices, such as a smartphone, tablet, laptop, iPad, iPod, and some e-Readers, would be acceptable. We do ask that students bring devices with WiFi capability. Students without personal devices have the option to sign out one of the few school devices from the school library.

To have students transfer their school work from their device into electronic storage for class collaboration or into their teacher for assessment purposes, we are creating email accounts for each student through a school division supported program called Microsoft Office 365. These accounts will be active for the duration of the student’s enrolment in Saskatoon Public Schools and we are asking students to use these accounts for school use only.

We encourage you to ask your student regularly about their progress using technology at school. Attached is a FAQ document which explains the expectations and considerations.

We are committed to providing the highest quality learning opportunities for our students. As such, Powering Up Students will help students develop the skills and disposition to make educated and effective decisions regarding technology and learning. We look forward to your support and your feedback as we move forward and learn together.

Yours truly,