Bring Your Own Device Overview

Revised 7/30/22

Upper School students are required to provide their own computing device to use at school. Many schools call this sort of program a "Bring Your Own Device" or BYOD program. The student must bring the device every day and the device must meet the requirements below. Students will be responsible for maintaining their own devices and replacing them if they are broken, lost, or stolen. The school will provide basic troubleshooting support at school, wireless internet access, wireless print access to some types of devices, free software for some platforms, and locations to charge the device at school.

Touch screen laptops with stylus support meet **both the requirements and recommendations**. Devices with stylus support provide the widest range of input methods including handwriting, diagraming, writing equations, drawing, and typing. Some examples of reputable devices are below, with two specific models italicized that are great all-around devices you can use as a starting point in your decision.

- Lenovo Yoga (*ThinkPad X1 Yoga G7*, ThinkPad)
- Dell 2-in-1 (*Latitude 13 7330*, Latitude, XPS)
- HP x360 (Elite Dragonfly, Elitebook, Spectre)
- Microsoft Surface (Book, Pro)

Devices without stylus support or touchscreens meet the requirements but **not the recommendations**. Taking math and science notes is significantly more difficult on non-touch devices. The most common devices we see on campus that meet this description are:

- Apple Macbooks (Macbook 2015, Air 2013, and Pro 2013, or newer)
- Windows gaming laptops (Razer Blade, Asus TUF, Lenovo Legion, Acer Predator, etc.)

The devices below do **not meet the requirements**:

- An iPhone – *It doesn't run the full version of tools we use and it isn't large enough to do much of the work your child needs to do in school. Phones are not a permitted tool for doing work in class.*
- An iPad or iPad Pro – *Some of the tools that we use at school do not run on tablets. The version of Office that runs on these devices is feature limited compared to a PC or Mac.*
- Chromebooks – *The full desktop version of Microsoft Office doesn't run on Chrome OS.*
- A Windows 7 laptop – *Updates for Windows 7 are no longer offered.*

The device is required to be able to do the following tasks:
- Run Microsoft Office 365 Applications (Not the online version)
  - The school provides Office to students for free
  - Per Microsoft's system requirements, the device must have 10 GB of free space on the hard drive after operating system updates, this typically equates to at least a 120 GB hard drive
- Run an operating system supported until the end of the school year
  - Windows 10 Version 21H2 or newer
  - Mac OS X 11 or newer (Big Sur)
- Run on battery at least 5 hours while performing note taking or web research (longer battery life is recommended)
- Participate in video calls using a webcam and microphone
- Either have a keyboard or be able to attach to a keyboard

The device is recommended to be able to do the following tasks:
- Have digital pen or stylus functionally – be able to take handwritten notes or diagrams
- Charge via USB-C or Thunderbolt, typically called USB Power Delivery
- Respond quickly to input and workload, below are some tips to help in this effort:
  - Buy or upgrade your device with a Solid State Drive (SSD) rather than a spinning hard disk for storage.
  - Buy or upgrade your device with 8 GB or more of memory (RAM).
  - Use only one antivirus program, good quality free options are Windows Defender (which comes built-in), Avira, Avast, AVG, Bitdefender, and Kaspersky.
  - Remove extraneous programs when you first buy a Windows device. If you are unsure, feel free to see the IT department for help!

Other aspects to consider:
- Parents may want to purchase an insurance plan on their child's device that covers accidental damage and/or loss.
- Students are encouraged to use a backup provider such as the school's Microsoft OneDrive so that student work can be recovered if needed.
- The size of the device. Too small of a screen can make it hard to read fine text, too large can make the device bulky and heavy to carry from class to class.
- A high-quality keyboard can be very important to writing and editing.
- The device you and your child choose should be tailored to their needs. For example, students participating in activities such as Robotics or Photography may want to consider a more powerful device.
- A device which is barely powerful enough to meet your child's needs today will likely not meet their needs in 4 years.
- There is a variety of different levels of quality with computing devices (sometimes even between devices made by the same vendor). High quality devices tend to handle wear and tear better than lower quality devices.
- The school tries to provide the same software used on school computers to use on student devices for free whenever possible. Currently the school can provide: Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe Creative Cloud Suite, Vernier Logger Pro, and Audacity.

If you'd like assistance choosing a device, you can email Thomas Hurst at thomas.hurst@sgs.org or call him at 509-464-8816 with any questions.