

# BYOD Recommendations for 2019-20

The integration of digital technology continues to have a transformative effect on learning in the classroom and beyond. Ensuring that your son or daughter has an adequate device is very important and requires consideration of many factors: price, battery life, processing speed (processor plus RAM), and software requirements. Below is a list of recommendations and ideas for the capability and type of device students should be aiming to bring to school.

Laptops, Notebooks, and MacBooks are preferred to Chromebooks and tablets as they support all software that may be required at all levels of Secondary school at CIS.

The school accepts no responsibility for maintaining or repairing student-owned devices.

## Minimum Recommended Specifications – PC / MacBook

Below is a list of specifications that should be considered when deciding what device to purchase. You can take these specifications to your local computer hardware store and they should be able to recommend a good device for you.

- Processor: Intel i3 Dual Core, AMD E2/A4 Dual Core (Equivalent or better)
- RAM: Minimum 4GB
- Screen: 11" or bigger
- Battery: Recommended Minimum of 5 hours
- Graphics Card: 512 MB GDDR RAM or more, except Intel CMA X3100 cards
- Operating System: Windows 10 / OS X 10.13 (or better)
- Hard Drive: 128GB SSD Recommended (or better)

## Notes When Buying:

**SSD vs HDD** – A SSD (Solid State Drive) is less susceptible to failure due to movement and bumps and are faster as they are solid and not mechanical. However, they are more expensive than a traditional HDD (Hard Disk Drive).

**Life of Device** – All devices and hardware have a limited life span. This is affected by the user and their treatment of the device. It's also affected by a rapidly changing environment with software that demands more powerful operating systems and devices on an ongoing basis. Families should plan for a student to go through a minimum of two devices for the secondary years. CIS also recommends that families invest in a hard case that will protect their student's laptop while it is in their bag.

**Big Laptop vs Smaller Notebook** – Larger laptops are generally more powerful than Notebooks and can be easier to use. However, they are bulkier, heavier and therefore more difficult to carry around the school and from class to class.

**Software Management** – Having a fast computer is good but managing software installed on your device is also important. A computer with a lot of software installed will slow down and reduce the battery run time. Students need to be aware of what they install on their machine and carefully manage their installed software.

**Student Device Care and Security** – Most devices will come with care guidelines which we advise users to read. The following are conditions that we recommend.

- Portable devices should be protected by a username and password.
- Always store the laptops in a protective bag. Do not store anything else inside the laptop bag.
- Avoid storing your laptop at the bottom of your school bag and carry your laptop within its protective cover inside your normal school bag. Do not overfill your school bag. (Pressure on the laptop can cause permanent damage to the screen and other components)
- The security of a student-owned device is the responsibility of the student. Where possible, laptops should be engraved or labeled with the student's name.

**Warranty** – Most machines come with a 1-year warranty and a 3-year optional warranty. The majority of laptop warranties cover hardware problems that were not caused by the owner, such as defective keyboards, monitor problems or other issues with internal components. The laptop warranty generally covers the parts and labor for repairs. A warranty will not cover damage inflicted by the owner or someone else.

**Virus and Malware Protection** – Ensure that the virus and malware protection on portable devices is kept up to date.

**Saving and Backup** – Students are responsible for their own backup of critical data at all times. This may be through a USB drive, SD card, external drive, or cloud-based solution. Students have access to Google Drive via their school account with Unlimited storage for their enrollment at CIS.

Please feel free to contact me at [fabio.rocco@cis.ky](mailto:fabio.rocco@cis.ky) if you require any further information.