



MEADOWRIDGE SCHOOL

Laptop Requirements

Suggestions to consider when purchasing a laptop for your child/children

Is your child entering Grade 5 or Grade 12?

This has an impact on the size and weight of the laptop you consider. A small child in Grade 5 should not carry around a heavy laptop, so consider smaller lighter models, such as a MacBook Air, or a Surface laptop.

What are your child's interests?

If your child will only be using the laptop for typing notes, creating spreadsheets, writing essays, and researching, a powerful laptop is unnecessary. If your child enjoys working with Photoshop or playing games, you might consider something a little higher-end.

How much storage space do we need?

Many people get confused between storage capacity and RAM. RAM is usually measured in GB, whereas storage will be measured in hundreds of GB. Laptops have adequate storage capacity, with 256 GB of storage; however, 512 GB or more allows for more video editing, photographs, songs and movies.

Which processor is better?

A mid grade processor is recommended such as an Intel Core i5 or AMD equivalent. New Macs are coming with the Apple M series processors which are also a great option.

How much RAM does the laptop need?

Assuming the laptop is running a new processor (64bit), a minimum would be 8 GB. If your child intends on processing video and editing photographs, 16 GB or more would be suitable.

Which brand of laptop should I buy?

Again, this is a matter of preference. The school buys Microsoft Surface laptops and tablets as well as Macs. Speak with friends and other Meadowridge families for their opinions.

Should I buy the extended warranty?

Some laptops come with a 3-year warranty while others only come with one. Purchasing an extended warranty that covers everything from drops to spills is another option. When making your decision, consider asking yourself, "If I had to replace this computer in XX months (years) would I be frustrated because I didn't buy the warranty?". You may also consider leveraging the extended warranty on your credit card. Check with your bank because many credit cards double the warranty on electronics.

Do I buy Windows or Mac?

There is no correct answer as it depends on the individual and their learning style. Support for laptops can only be provided for English operating systems. Students will receive support for any version of Windows or OSX (Mac). Microsoft offers discounts on their products for students. For more information, please contact the IT Department.

Do I need any other software?

To improve communication with their teachers, students must submit work that is supported by the Microsoft Office suite. If students use their Meadowridge credentials when logging into Office 365, they will have access to download the required software. Don't forget the anti-virus - even for the Macs! Windows 10 comes with Defender built in which works quite well. Other popular options are Symantec (Norton), McAfee, Kaspersky and AVG.

Can my child use an iPad or other tablet?

The primary device must be a Windows or Mac OS based device. While most of our apps are web based, some classes may require specialized software and USB connectivity.

What else do I need?

Don't underestimate the value in a good laptop bag. The laptop will be transported to and from school every day and will surely get bumped along the way.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact our IT Department at 604.467.4444 or tech@meadowridge.bc.ca

MEADOWRIDGE SCHOOL 12224 240th Street Maple Ridge, BC V4R 1N1 meadowridge.bc.ca

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