

Dear Future Grizzlies,

On behalf of the Garrison Forest School Technology Department, we want to welcome you to the Forest! At Garrison Forest School, we use technology to support learning. Computers and other technologies allow us to find information that informs our thinking and connects us with others. Technology is ubiquitous on campus and in our classrooms, and because it changes so quickly, your teachers are often learning with you and from you.

Garrison Forest School is proudly a G-Suite (formerly Google Apps for Education) school. This means we work “in the cloud,” and use Gmail, Google Drive, and Google Sites, to name just a few of our digital tools, everyday. Your account will be ready for you on day one of orientation and the Upper School Digital Learning Specialist will help you get started and support you along the way.

As an Upper School student, you have a choice in the device you choose for school. The Upper School is flexible in terms of the device you use. Whether you are a MAC person or a Windows fan, both are equally welcome on the GrizzlyNet! Because of the type of work you will be asked to do, we do not recommend Chromebooks or iPads as a primary device for Upper School students.

The first option is to purchase your computer through GFS and our vendor, DSR. This assures that you will get the support you need, when you need it. Our IT Department will send your laptop out for repairs and let you know when it is back on campus and when possible, we will provide you with a loaner laptop. The second option is for families to purchase their own computer or to use an existing family-owned computer. As long as your laptop meets school specifications (due out in May) it is a completely suitable option. Please note, however, we are limited in the type of support we can provide for laptops not purchased through GFS.

Additional information about pricing and payment options will be available on our website in mid-May. If you have any questions about purchasing your computer, feel free to contact robertammons@gfs.org.

In the meantime, get ready for an awesome year! We look forward to welcoming you to our campus!

Congratulations!

The GFS Technology Department