



The Gow School

Dear Parents,

This letter will outline some of the details pertaining to the laptop program here at Gow. In addition to this letter, I would like to draw your attention to the technology section of the student handbook which contains our acceptable use policy. This letter and our acceptable use policy are updated annually.

The Laptop Program

The Gow School will provide for 100% of your child's academic technology needs. This includes the use of a laptop preinstalled with all the software required for their classes. At the end of this letter is a frequently asked questions section that describes the hardware and software included as well as answers to some of the questions we have been asked most often.

There are a few points I would like to highlight pertaining to the laptops.

1. **Since the school will be providing laptops to every student, please do not send your child to Gow with another computer from home. If your child brings a computer to Gow, we will ship it home.**
2. We have many printers spread throughout the campus. It is not necessary for you to bring a personal printer for your child's room. However, if you believe it is important to bring one, please let us know when you arrive so that we can make sure your child's laptop has the appropriate printer drivers installed.
3. During the first week of school, there will be a laptop orientation that will cover the basics of laptop care and operation.
4. The laptops have a three-year warranty that covers accidental damage. If your child notifies you that their laptop is malfunctioning, please ask them to bring it to the IT office. We will arrange for service and will provide your child with a replacement laptop.
5. For some students, this will be the first time they are responsible for the care and operation of an expensive piece of electronic equipment. Please help us by reinforcing the need to handle the laptop with care and respect.
6. And, of course, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions. I can be reached at 716.687.2031 or at jpoblocki@gow.org.



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LTE Devices

The technology team does everything in its power to protect your child from objectionable content on the Internet. We have a world class internet filter and firewall in place to monitor and control the Internet provided on campus.

Please be aware; by providing your child an LTE enabled smartphone, it is allowing them to bypass all the filters that we have in place. Some smartphones even allow the device to be "tethered" to their school provided laptop, giving them the ability to bypass our filters using LTE. We are taking all steps available to limit this capability. Ultimately, the decision is up to you to send your child here with the device.



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Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the specifications of the laptop my child will receive?

Lenovo ThinkPad Yoga L13 Gen 2
4.7 GHz Intel i7-1165G7 Processor
16 GB RAM
512 GB Solid State Drive
8 Cell Battery (~6 hours of life)
13.3" LED Backlit Display with Touch and Stylus Support
Bluetooth 5.1
USB 3.1 Type-C
3 Year Accidental Damage Warranty

2. What software will come standard on the laptop?

Microsoft Windows 10 Enterprise Edition
Microsoft Office 365 Professional Plus
Adobe Creative Cloud
Microsoft Math
Green Globes
Symantec Endpoint Protection
Inspiration
Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing
Kurzweil 3000
Dragon Naturally Speaking
West Point Bridge Builder
Geometer's Sketchpad



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3. What other software will be available?

Depending on the courses your child takes, additional software such as SolidWorks will be installed.

4. Will my child be able to install their own programs on the laptop?

Yes. We understand that computers are an important part of your child's communication and entertainment life. We will create a list of approved applications that can be installed. However, there will also be a list of applications that, for security reasons or due to the inappropriateness of the software, will be blocked.

5. Will my child be able to use software to download music and/or movies?

Yes and No. Services such as iTunes, Netflix, Hulu, etc. will be available. However, peer to peer software that circumvents the law by encouraging the free downloading of music and/or movies will not be permitted.

6. Who owns the laptops and software?

The laptops are leased and, after three years, will be returned to the leasing company. The software licenses are owned by The Gow School.

7. What if we decide my child needs a laptop and the software used at Gow for college?

We will send a letter in the spring with a list of recommendations.

8. Can my child bring the school laptop home?

Your child can bring the laptop home during vacations. However, the laptops will be kept at Gow during the summer so that we can get them ready for the next school year.



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9. What if my child drops their laptop and it breaks?

The laptop warranty covers accidental damage. All service will be handled by the Gow IT staff. We will have spare laptops available so that your child will not have to wait for theirs to be repaired. However, we expect every student to take appropriate precautions to prevent damage to the laptops.

10. Can my child still bring their own computer to Gow?

No. There are many reasons why we have decided to ask parents to keep their personal computers at home. Some of them include:

- A. Network security is more difficult to maintain.
- B. Providing service for an additional 100-150 computers is beyond the capacity of our IT staff.
- C. Students use their personal computers to bypass our internet filters.
- D. The laptops provided by the school will be able to meet your child's entertainment needs.

11. Do you have a wireless network?

Yes. All academic buildings and dormitories have wireless connectivity.

12. Why did you choose Lenovo for the laptop?

We reviewed many computer manufacturers and models. The Lenovo ThinkPad is a very sturdy laptop that has many features not provided by other computer manufacturers. They also provide world class support.

Once again, please do not hesitate to contact me with additional questions.

Sincerely,

Jeff Poblocki
Director of Technology
The Gow School
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