

## Student Laptop Specifications PDS Upper School 2023 - 2024 School Year

Upper School students at Princeton Day School choose a preferred computing device to purchase for school. Students must have at least one device available for school work, and to bring to class when required by a teacher. New students are required to bring their primary devices to their new student orientation sessions in August.

Devices must meet the specifications below. Devices not meeting these specifications will not be supported, and may be prohibited from accessing the school network, printers and other PDS resources. Only Windows 10 and 11 and recent versions of Mac OS operating systems meet these specifications, not Unix, Linux, Chrome OS, or others.

All devices must have Microsoft Office, including Word, Powerpoint and Excel. Students will be able to download and use Microsoft Office on their devices for no additional cost through our Microsoft agreement, however they will lose access immediately once they are no longer students at PDS. All devices must include antivirus/antimalware software with auto-update enabled. They should also have the Chrome browser installed. Other applications may be required for specific classes.

**Maintaining an approved computing device in working condition is a requirement throughout each student's Upper School career at PDS.**

### **APPROVED DEVICES:**

Devices that meet the specifications below are acceptable as a primary device.

Apple MacBook	Windows PC Laptop
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Macbook Pro (model released 2019 or newer), or MacBook Air (2019 or newer). To determine your Macbook model, please visit:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Air: <a href="https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201862">https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201862</a></li> <li>○ Pro: <a href="https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201300">https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201300</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● All MacBook Pro and MacBook Air models currently being sold as new models by Apple meet PDS specifications (with at least 8 GB RAM)</li> <li>● The Apple computer's operating system must still be supported by updates from Apple. These currently include only the following: Ventura (v13) Monterey (v12), Big Sur (v11)</li> <li>● All systems must have the latest updates, and be kept up-to-date while at PDS</li> <li>● Minimum 8 GB RAM (more RAM is strongly recommended and always preferable, especially if media arts or design courses are anticipated)</li> <li>● Must include antivirus/antimalware software with auto-update enabled</li> <li>● All security-related Apple updates must be installed</li> <li>● At least 100 GB free hard disk space. Solid state drives (SSD) are recommended</li> <li>● Integrated webcam and microphone must be in working condition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No more than three years old</li> <li>● Minimum 8 GB RAM (more RAM is strongly recommended, especially if media arts or design courses are anticipated)</li> <li>● Windows 10 or 11, with latest updates</li> <li>● Must include antivirus/antimalware software with auto-update enabled</li> <li>● All security-related Windows updates must be installed</li> <li>● Microsoft Surface Pro (7, 8 or 9) and Surface Laptop (4 or 5) are examples of acceptable options as Windows laptops (must run full Windows 10 or 11 operating system and be produced no earlier than 2019)</li> <li>● At least 100 GB free hard disk space. Solid state drives (SSD) are recommended</li> <li>● Integrated webcam and microphone must be in working condition</li> <li>● Recent-generation Intel Core or AMD Ryzen processors recommended</li> </ul>

\*Please note that no iPad models are approved primary computing devices for incoming Upper School students\*

## **DEVICES NOT APPROVED:**

Only devices that meet the specifications above are acceptable as a primary device. Examples of devices that currently **do not meet requirements** include:

- iPad, iPad Pro, iPad Air, iPad Mini
- Android phone or tablet
- Any model of Galaxy tablet, Kindle, Fire, etc.
- iPhone or other Smartphone
- iPod Touch
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd generations of Microsoft Surface tablets
- Computers running Linux as their primary operating system
- Chromebooks
- Any MacBook, MacBook Pro, or MacBook Air produced before 2019
- Any device running Windows XP, Windows 7, Windows Vista, Windows 8, Mac OS Catalina (v10.15), Mac OS Mojave (v10.14), Mac OS High Sierra (v10.13), Mac OS Sierra (v10.12), any version of Mac OS X, or other older, unsupported operating systems

## **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

- Our coursework requires individual computing devices. It is not permitted for a student to not own a device, or to simply rely on borrowing or using PDS computers. Owning a device that meets the specifications above is a requirement for every PDS student. Devices that are lost or broken must be repaired or replaced promptly.
- For existing PDS students, any hardware device that meets the standards posted during their first year in the Upper School will be supported for them throughout their PDS career. This will be the case unless unmanageable security vulnerabilities or performance factors force obsolescence, or if a fully supported operating system is no longer available for the computer. Available OS updates must continue to be installed.
- For all systems, it is essential to back up all important files to Google Drive, iCloud, another cloud service, or an external drive. Because students have Google Drive storage space with their PDS accounts, we highly recommend they install the Google Drive for Desktop utility to protect important files and folders. The school is not responsible for backing up student information or for lost files. PDS IT will not attempt to recover lost data from student-owned devices. Computer problems cannot be an excuse for lost assignments.
- It is vital that all computers and other devices remain secure. Any device not updated with security-related patches and current anti-malware/antivirus software may be immediately restricted from use on campus. This includes any computer with an operating system that is no longer receiving security updates. Inability to perform school work in such cases will be entirely the responsibility of the student, not PDS IT. To prevent problems, please consult PDS IT with any questions.
- PDS IT will provide instructions and assistance in connecting student-owned devices to the PDS network, PDS printers and other school resources. Devices that do not meet the specifications above will not be allowed on the network. Students are responsible for the lost work or time due to this situation.
- PDS will perform basic troubleshooting to assist students with emergencies, but will not perform hardware repairs, software installations, repairs related to installed third party software or warranty work on student-owned systems. Students and parents are responsible to ensure that computing devices are maintained in working order, and that important files are backed up. Please purchase any additional technical support or warranty that you deem necessary to keep your device performing well throughout its life.
- A working webcam and microphone are considered essential tools for learning in the classroom and at home. If the built-in webcam and/or microphone on a student's laptop is not operating properly, families must seek repairs or obtain an external webcam and/or microphone.
- Students are expected to bring their devices to school in the morning fully charged and ready to use. Charging stations are available in locations throughout the school, but it is the student's responsibility to have a working and fully-charged device during class time or when required by their teachers. Students may also choose to keep a spare power adapter at school.
- **When setting up new devices, student accounts must be given full administrative access.** With this level of account permission, students will be able to perform critical functions at school such as installing applications, modifying network settings, and setting up printer access.