Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Information

Please review the following information for the BYOD program at The International School of San Francisco. If you have any questions, please email: techsupport@internationalsf.org
Updated March, 2026

What Will the School Provide?

The school will provide licensed copies of software and textbooks needed for academic use. For productivity tools, the school provides access to Google Workspace.

What Type of Laptop Should My Child Bring to School?

Every student, in grades 9-12, is required to bring a reliable laptop to school every day. Both Mac and PC are acceptable. A Chromebook or tablet is not an acceptable device. There are several pieces of software that a high school student will need to install, which cannot be installed on a Chromebook or tablet.

Necessary apps, that incur a charge, are provided to students by the Technology office at no cost, and are requested by their teacher. The Technology department will provide loaner laptops, for up to 2 weeks, only if a student's device is in for repairs. A receipt, or appointment notice, for the repairs will need to be presented.

*Minimum Specifications**

- Light and fast to boot
- 16 GB of memory minimum
- 256 GB of storage minimum (512 GB preferred)
- Quad-Core processor minimum.
- Wireless connection should be at least 802.11n - it must be able to connect to a 5GHz, 802.11ac band

Apple devices: MacBook Air or MacBook Pro models.

PC devices: there are a variety of devices, from different manufacturers, that meet the specifications, including 2:1 devices that function as both tablets and laptops. PC devices can be purchased directly from the website of the manufacturer of your choice: HP, Lenovo, Dell, etc. or through retailers such as Best Buy. When buying directly from the manufacturer website, please keep in mind that it could take a few weeks before you receive your laptop.

*Some programs, such as IB Film, may require a device with a faster processor, a larger hard drive, an SD card reader and/or a portable drive. Please check with *techsupport@internationalsf.org* if you have any questions.

Do I Need to Install an Anti-Malware or Antivirus?

We have found that the Mac operating system is less susceptible to viruses and malware. However, we highly recommend downloading Malwarebytes, available here at no cost.

On PCs, ensure that Window Defender, which comes with your computer, is turned on and up to date at all times. With either device, please make sure the Internet browser is kept up to date.

Do I Need to Buy a Cover for the Laptop?

We highly recommend that you purchase a cover for the laptop to protect it from damage. Look for a balance of protection, size and convenience.

What Happens If My Child's Laptop Gets Lost or Damaged?

Your child's laptop is solely their responsibility. Typical laptop warranties do not cover accidental damage so we recommend that you buy insurance for accidental damage. Here is an example of an insurance provider..

We will provide a loaner laptop for students while their device is being repaired or replaced (for up to two weeks).

What Happens When My Child Forgets the Laptop at Home or Brings It to School Uncharged?

We recommend, and will continue to remind students, to charge their computers each night and to always upload their work to Google Drive. There are several laptops available through the Academic Resource Center that can be used for a day or single period loan.

Given the variety of different laptops, the Technology team will not be able to lend chargers.

What Happens If My Child's Laptop Needs Technical Support?

The Technology team is available to help high school students with their technology needs. We will do a basic diagnosis and provide recommendations to students when possible, but we will not make any physical changes to the device.

Will Financial Aid Be Available?

Yes. As a school we remain committed to inclusion and access. Financial assistance is available to help offset the cost of buying a laptop. Families in our Need-Based Financial Aid Program may request assistance in purchasing a device through our Device Support Program by clicking here.

How Do We Promote Safe and Proper Use of Technology?

Many parents are interested in information about social networking and balanced, positive, uses of technology at home. International uses Common Sense Media and other sources to teach students how to make thoughtful and deliberate choices about technology and media use. The “Parents Need to Know” section on Common Sense Media provides a variety of resources for parents to carry similar conversations at home.

All International students are expected to be knowledgeable of, and agree to, the Technology Use Guidelines and its tenants concerning safe, ethical and respectful use of technology on campus.

Are Laptops Used in Every Class?

In most classes students will use technology when appropriate. The preference of some students to use laptops for note-taking and other routine uses will be respected, but there will be times when faculty will ask all students to comply with a “lids down” or “no laptops for this next activity” request.