

# LAPTOP REQUIREMENTS GR 7-12

when purchasing a laptop for your child/children

## How much storage space do we need?

Many people get confused between storage capacity and RAM. Storage, space for you to save/download files and apps, will be measured in **hundreds of GB**. Laptops have adequate storage capacity, with 256 GB of storage. 512 GB or more allows for more video editing, photographs, songs and movies.

## How much RAM does the laptop need?

RAM is the responsiveness of your machine (ie: how many apps can run at once). RAM is usually measured in GB. Assuming the laptop is running a new processor (64bit), a minimum would be 8 GB RAM. If your child intends on processing video and editing photographs, 16 GB RAM or more would be suitable.

## 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.

## 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 Adobe Photoshop, video editing or coding programs, you might consider something a little higher-end. A minimum screen resolution of 1024 × 576 is recommended.

## 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. An extra charger to be kept at school is also recommended, as limited chargers are available to borrow.

By Grade 9, students are also required to have their own dongle (USB-C to USB adapter).

## 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 Mac or Windows ?

There is no correct answer as it depends on the individual and their learning style. Support for devices can only be provided for **English operating systems**. Students will receive support for Windows or OSX (Mac). We discourage bringing gaming laptops, such as Alienware, due to excessive weight and poor battery life. For more information, please contact the IT Department.

## Do I need any other software?

Students can log into the Meadowridge Microsoft Office 365 and INSTALL the desktop version of Microsoft Word and Excel (mandatory) and Microsoft PowerPoint (optional). In Grade 9, students will also receive access codes and links for Vernier (Logger Pro) and Graphical Analysis Pro. Anti-virus is highly recommended- 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 laptop must be a Mac OS or Windows. ChromeOS based device cannot download desktop versions of Office 365, Logger Pro or Graphical Analysis Pro. Though, some of our apps are web based, specific classes require specialized software and USB connectivity.

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