

Junior School

Students in the Junior School have access to the Chromebook labs, as well as the iPad lab at school. Junior students are not required to provide a device. If your child has an iPad or laptop, and you approve of it being used at school, he/she may bring the device with him/her to be used at the discretion of the classroom teacher.

Middle & Senior School

Fraser Academy uses a one-to-one, BYOD (“Bring Your Own Device”) model of technology in the Middle & Senior School. This means that it is the expectation that each student in grades 7-12 brings their own laptop of choice to use at school. It is important for middle and senior students to ensure that their device(s) provides possibilities for mobility, rapid and diverse content creation, and participation in learning activities. Learning activities may include capturing and editing videos, the use of social media, the creation of presentations, capturing data during science labs, note taking on field trips, essay writing, etc. These activities can be accomplished through a laptop or a combination of devices (smartphone, tablet, and/or laptop).

Each student is responsible for managing the storage of any digital content they create through Google Drive and the storage capacity of his/her device. It is recommended that students regularly backup their devices to cloud services (e.g. iCloud) or external hard drives. This will help to prevent the loss of data in the event that the device is damaged or lost. Students in Digital Media and Information Technology classes have access to Fraser Academy’s Digital Media lab for course specific programs.

Devices and Codes of Conduct

Students are responsible for supporting, maintaining, and managing their own devices. All devices will continue to be subject to the Fraser Academy Community Standards and the Acceptable Use of Technology Policy.

Potential BYOD Devices & Considerations

As there is a wide range of devices available, we have listed suggested options and appropriate grade range.

Chromebook (Grade 7 - 9 only)

- 4GB of RAM as a minimum
- Suggested brands include: Acer, HP & Dell

Laptops/Ultrabooks (All grades)

- Dell XPS 13"
- MacBook Air 13"
- Microsoft Surface Pro 12.3"

General Minimum Specifications for Laptops:

- Windows / Apple OSX
- 10-12 Hours Battery Life (reflective of our commuter community)
- 2.6 GHZ Dual Core, 128 GB Internal Storage, 4+GB Ram

FAQs for Laptops

Are the requirements different for Middle & Senior School?

Age has an impact on the size, weight, and degree of computing power you consider in a laptop. This may also impact the degree of durability you seek and your plan for a replacement cycle.

How much storage space do we need?

Many people get confused between storage capacity and RAM. RAM is usually measured in a few GB, whereas storage is measured in hundreds of GB. It is unlikely your child's hard drive will ever run out of space due to basic documents, but it is worth considering larger storage capacities if he/she uses the laptop for video editing, design, or storing thousands of photographs, songs and movies.

How much RAM does the laptop need?

Assuming the laptop is running a new processor (64 bit), a minimum would be 4GB; more is always better.

Should I buy the extended warranty?

Some laptops come with a 3-year warranty while others only come with a 1-year warranty. Purchasing an extended warranty that could cover everything, from drops to spills, is another option. When making your decision, ask yourself "If I had to replace this computer in XX months/years, would I be frustrated because I didn't buy the warranty?"

Do I buy Windows or Mac?

As a large percentage of the platforms being used for content creation are web-based, the particular machine becomes less important. It is valuable to consider the user's familiarity with foundational products, navigation of the operating system (Windows vs. OS X), and the use of other tools such as movie and image management.

Do I need any other software?

Fraser Academy will continue to use Google Apps for Education (GAFE), which includes tools like Docs, Sheets, and Slides. With that being said, students may use Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, etc.), or iWork (Pages, Keynote, etc.) and other software programs at their discretion. Students may also consider creative programs like Photoshop or Lightroom. Plus, don't forget the anti-virus - even for the Macs! Popular companies are Symantec (Norton) and AVG.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Bryson Norrish, Director of Technology, at bnorrish@fraseracademy.ca.