

LAPTOP REQUIREMENT FOR CLASS OF 2020 AND BEYOND



George School will begin a four-year transition to a Bring Your Own Laptop (BYOL) program starting September 2016. This program ensures each ready access to a computer for their general academic computing needs both in and out of class.

Beginning with the class of 2020, incoming ninth graders will be required to bring their own Mac or PC laptop to school. This need not be a new laptop and most Mac or PC laptops purchased in the last four years will work on our network and meet basic academic needs. At an absolute minimum a computer must have wireless network capabilities and be able to run the latest version of Microsoft Office and a modern web browser. Please see our **Student Computer Specifications** document posted on our website for details about minimum and recommended computer hardware specifications.

Please see the **Acceptable Use Policy** in the *Community Handbook* for the rules on the use of our technology infrastructure and services.

Software

George School is standardized on the Microsoft Office suite of software applications including Word, Excel, OneNote, Outlook, and PowerPoint. This software is provided free of charge to all students via the Office 365 web portal. Most other software used in courses are free or free to students under George School license. Some students may choose to subscribe to Adobe's Creative Cloud service to gain access to the artistic software tools that service includes but it is not required. George School will continue to provide computer labs with the necessary tools to support digital photography, video editing, and student publications.

Printing

George School provides black and white laser printers for student use in most academic buildings across campus. Networked laser printers will also be provided in each dorm beginning in academic year 2016—17. Students may print to these printers from their personal computer through a web based service.

Boarding students are welcome to bring their own printer. Please note that wireless personal printers are not supported as they interfere with the school's wireless network. A student that brings a wireless capable printer must have that feature turned off and connect to it via USB.

Data Storage and Backup

Students should store their work and personal files in a cloud service. This protects their work and data from loss, provides access from different devices, and enables collaboration. George School provides students with practically unlimited storage for their academic work via Office 365. Students should use a cloud service of their choice for personal music, photos, and other files.

Safe Computing

All personal computers are required to have up-to-date operating systems and antivirus software to access George School's internal wireless and wired networks. This requirement is to help keep computers and our network free from malware and viruses. There are many free options for antivirus software available that are very good.

Support

Information Technology Services (ITS) Help Desk provides technical support for the users of George School's information technology hardware, software, and services. The ITS Help Desk does not repair personal computers not owned by George School, but does assist users with troubleshooting and configuration assistance. A pool of laptops is maintained for short-term loan to students if needed while their personal computer is being repaired or replaced.