George School Student Laptop Requirement

All students are required to have and bring their own Mac or PC laptop to school as part of the Bring Your Own Laptop (BYOL) program. The goal of this program is to ensure each student has ready access to a computer for their general academic computing needs both in and out of class.

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.   Students must also have access to a webcam, microphone, and headphones. 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 and tools used in courses are web-based, like Google G Suite, or are free to students under George School license, like Adobe Creative Cloud. George School provides 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. 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 storage for their academic work via Office 365 and Google G Suite. 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. Information Technology Services (ITS) is happy to assist students with configuring their computer for secure and safe computing.

Support
Information Technology Services (ITS) Service Desk provides technical support for the users of George School's information technology hardware, software, and services. The ITS Service 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 up to a 30-day loan to students while their personal computer is being repaired or replaced. Each academic building also has a few laptops to borrow if an emergency need arises in class.