

# **FAQ for BYOD Minimum Device Requirements**

## **Episcopal School of Baton Rouge**

### **Grades 9-12**

#### **Q: Why required BYOD (Bring your own Device) in Upper School?**

A:

- To help students become responsible for their own technology use.
- To give students choices for their best fit with regard to their technology use.
- To prepare students for the multi-platform experience of college life.
- To embrace the number of personal computers already in use by the student population.
- To continue the 1:1 foundation from Middle School.
- To further integrate technology into the classroom experience.

#### **Q: What are the minimum device requirements for most classes?**

A:

- Windows or Mac OS (NOT android, iOS, Linux, Surface RT, or chromebook due to software requirements)
- Processor: Intel Core i5 or AMD equivalent
- Memory: 4GB
- Hard Drive: 64 GB or better, SSD preferred
- Wireless: WiFi ready
- Battery life: 6 hours
- Screen size: nothing smaller than 10.5” diagonal
- Headphone jack with headphones/earbuds
- Integrated Microphone & Camera

#### **Q: Are there course specific recommendations for devices?**

A: While the minimum specs meet most course requirements, there is an exception for Engineering.

Engineering minimum specs in addition to the minimum specs above:

- Windows 7 or better (Windows is preferred due to the software, however if you choose Mac, dual boot is recommended with Windows)
- Processor: Core i7
- Memory: 8GB or better
- Hard Drive: 256 GB or better (SSD preferred)

#### **Q: What about other considerations for my device? (all optional)**

A:

- Device tracking - Apple’s “Find My Mac”, LoJack, etc.
- External hard drive or flash drive for backing up files or sync to the cloud (Google Drive sync client recommended).
- Additional AC power adapter (if you want one for school and one for home)
- We strongly recommend all students have a protective bag or sleeve to carry their device.
- Updated anti-virus/anti-malware protection. Many packages are available for students to download at home.
- Security: Must have a password/passcode (login) to access the device. This is responsible computing. (Students will be bound by the Honor Code, Responsible Use Policy, and BYOD Handbook.)
- Warranty: Accidental Damage Protection from manufacturer and/or extended warranty

#### **Q: Do I have to purchase a new device?**

A: Not if your current device meets the minimum requirements.

**Q: Will the school register my student's laptop?**

A: The device will not be registered by the school, but the network and Internet usage will be monitored and administered by the school while on campus.

**Q: Can I use an iPad, Surface RT, Chromebook, or another tablet or eReader in place of a laptop?**

A: No, these companion devices will not be considered the primary device under our BYOD program. Students are permitted to bring and use these as secondary devices at the discretion of the faculty. We require either a Windows laptop or MacBook. Mobile device models are inexpensive computing devices, and these mobile platforms unfortunately have the following issues:

- You cannot load software on them
- Not all publishers support them
- Some functionality with some learning tools may be impaired or not supported
- Mobile devices will not be adequate for all classes

**Q: Will technical support be provided for my device?**

A: The family is solely responsible for the repair, maintenance, and updating of the device. The school's technology department will assist students in:

- Connecting the device to the school's wireless network.
- Episcopal Help Desk is limited to the support we can provide for personal devices. We can only provide quick diagnostic overviews or already known software solutions
- For major or unknown issues it is the student's responsibility to use their normal support channel (Best Buy, Geek Squad, Genius Bar, Apple Care, etc.)

**Q: Is there specific software that needs to be installed?**

A: Yes, necessary software installation will be communicated by the Help Desk or the instructor on a case by case basis. Applications that are needed for high-end computer graphics, and other specialized uses will be made available on campus, so it is not necessary to purchase these. There may be exceptions to this for specific course needs i.e. Engineering. Students receive a free copy of Office with the school license to Office 365. This can be downloaded once the student has an Episcopal e-mail address from the Microsoft website for Windows or Mac.

**Q: Is the device required to have an Internet filter?**

A: While at school, personally-owned devices will connect through the same content filter as all school-owned computers. This fact, combined with our Responsible Use Policy and consistent instruction to students, aids us in preparing students to be good digital citizens.

**Q. What if my computer is broken, and I send it off for repairs?**

A. The school will provide a loaner for a short period of time, and the student will be asked to pay a 'rental fee' for their loaner device.

If you have specific technical questions, please email our Help Desk. [Helpdesk@ehsbr.org](mailto:Helpdesk@ehsbr.org)