

Laptops

If you choose to have your child use a laptop, we recommend students use an entry-mid level, business oriented laptop. The following specifications are meant as a guideline to help inform your purchase.

	Recommended Specs	Laptops			Notes
		Windows	MacBook Air	Chromebook	
Size	12-14 inch display	Recommended	Recommended	Recommended	More portable and device will fit on a desk with other learning tools such as a paper copy of an assignment.
Weight	<=4 lbs	Recommended	Recommended	Recommended	More portable, especially as student will have other supplies in backpack
Storage Capacity	>= 256 Gb	Required	Required	Required	Larger storage for multimedia projects
Battery Life	>=8 hrs	Required	Required	Required	Limited charging facilities available at school
RAM	Min 4 Gb, Recommended 8 Gb				Need enough memory to run multiple apps simultaneously
CPU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • i3, i5 or i7 				
WiFi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 802.11ac 	Required	Required	Required	Connect to school wireless network and access internet
USB Ports	>=2	Required	Required	Required	For use with flash drives, other USB devices
Durability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spill resistant keyboard • Metal body 	Recommended, but increases cost	Recommended, but increases cost	Recommended, but increases cost	A well-padded carrying case is also highly recommended
Printing	Network capable (installed at school)	Required	Required	Required	Students will need to install network printer at school, so they will need admin access to their device
Adobe Flash Player Compatible	Current version (self-installed)	Required	Required	Yes, but does not work with Quest A+	For online educational games and simulations as well as Quest A+ (used for provincial exams in Grades 6, 9 & 12)

Tablets

If you choose to use a tablet for your child, we recommend students use either a Microsoft Surface, or an Apple iPad/iPad Pro as many students have experienced limited usefulness in an educational setting with lower end Android based tablets. The following specifications are meant as a guideline to help inform your purchase.

	Tablets		
Features	Microsoft Surface Student	Apple iPad	Apple iPad Pro
Battery Life	Up to 13 hours	Up to 10 hours	Up to 10 hours
Display size	12.3"	9.7"	10.5" or 12.9"
Stylus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes - optional • Extra cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes – optional, (Apple Pencil) • Extra cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes – optional, (Apple Pencil) • Extra cost
Portability	Very	Very	Very
Durability	Good with screen protector & case	Good with screen protector & case	Good with screen protector & case
Built-in Keyboard	Onscreen	Onscreen	Onscreen
External Keyboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly recommended • Extra Cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly recommended • Extra Cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly recommended • Extra Cost
Touch screen	Yes	Yes	Yes
Apps	Should run Windows based apps	Many including some for specialized learning needs	Many including some for specialized learning needs
Network Printing	Yes	Not at school – requires AirPrint capability	Not at school – requires AirPrint capability
Usability	High (especially if student is used to Windows)	High – Intuitive interface	High – Intuitive interface
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good performance, • Portable, • Can print to network printer easily • Flash compatible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good performance, • Portable, • Can transfer files between devices seamlessly • Not Flash compatible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good performance, • Portable, • Can transfer files between devices seamlessly • Not Flash compatible