

June 2018

Dear Rising 5th Grade Parents,

I hope that you have settled into a relaxing summer routine and that your children are enjoying a much-needed break! As noted in an email to parents back in early April, it is an expectation that students participate in our mobile learning device program beginning in fifth grade. During the past several years as the program has evolved, we have had an opportunity to assess what works best for the students and teachers in the classroom through student, parent, and teacher feedback. Based on this information, **we limit the types of allowable devices** to ensure the best possible learning experience for our students.

Below you will find the specifics regarding the three choices for student use. Specifications for memory, storage, keyboard, etc. are included under each device. Many stores such as Apple, Microsoft, Best Buy, etc. offer back-to-school sales and discounts later in the summer. We recommend that you go to an actual store to check out these options, try them out in the store, and then make the best choice for your child based on personal preference. A warranty on your device is also certainly recommended.

<p>Microsoft Surface Laptop or Surface Pro with Type Cover (Recommended 128 GB/Intel Core i5/4 GB RAM or higher model)</p> <p>manufactured in 2017 or later</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operating System supported by manufacturer (Windows 10)• Internet access through Chrome• Adobe Acrobat Reader• Anti-virus protection with current definitions• Protective case, sleeve, etc.	<p>Chromebook Intel Celeron (3 suggested models manufactured in 2017 or later):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. HP - 2-in-1 11.6" Touch-Screen2. Samsung - 11.6" Touch-Screen3. Acer - Chromebook 14" <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internet access through Chrome• Protective case, sleeve, etc.	<p>Apple MacBook, MacBook Pro, or MacBook Air</p> <p>manufactured in 2017 or later</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operating System supported by manufacturer• Internet access through Chrome• Adobe Acrobat Reader• Anti-virus protection with current definitions• Protective case, sleeve, etc.
--	--	--

Bringing a device for grades 5-8 is an expectation, and it can be disruptive to the academic learning experience if students do not have their devices each day. The school has a very limited number of "loaners" that can be signed out from the library on a daily basis for situations in which a personal device is temporarily out of service, etc. **However, those devices are not meant to be used regularly as a "personal" device.** All middle school students are required to submit a signed BYOD agreement, which will be sent home in August.

We are looking forward to our device program continuing to enhance and facilitate the overall learning experience of our students. As always, if you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Best regards,

Amy Graham

Head of Middle School