



TECHNOLOGY

At Valor Christian School International we are excited to integrate technology into our classrooms. To help in this endeavor we ask that our families provide technology devices in grades 5 through 12. We will work with your students to learn how to use them appropriately to enhance their educational environment. This Bring Your Own Device plan, (BYOD) will help support the learning environment and allow students a global perspective on resources.

A BYOD plan allows classroom teachers to teach technology skills to enhance each subject to make schoolwork more efficient, interesting and creative. Students will learn how to use these skills to apply them to real world situations and gain valuable life skills. There are several research-based benefits of having a one to one learning environment. Researchers have seen better access to resources and learning experiences, improvement in attendance and discipline, higher quality differentiation in classwork, and improvements in parent and student attitudes toward school. We want to help support students by promoting greater independence, increased academic engagement and rigor, while supporting skill development.

Devices may not be shared and cannot be used for social media or gaming during the school day (this includes lunch and study hall times). To help maintain the educational environment, students are only allowed to bring technology devices to school for education uses. For more information on uses and consequences, please see the student handbook.

On campus, students will be responsible for the care and maintenance of their device. Prior to being allowed to use technology on campus, students and parents must sign the Authorized Use Policy for Christian Schools. This will be available in the new school year forms at the start of the school year.

BYOD: Primary Devices in Secondary School are Laptops.

Chromebooks and similar devices are acceptable for online research, introductory programming and interactive educational experiences. However, a Windows or iOS-based laptop will be required to fully participate-in and realize a student's full developmental experience with tools such as Adobe and programming languages such as Python and Java.

Entry Laptops cover all programming needs and most basic suite of Adobe tools. These range from older laptops with Core i5 processors, at least 2GB of RAM and 150GB of storage to more recent Core i3 processors, at least 2GB of RAM and 150GB of HDD storage.

Mid-range Laptops cover all the same ground as entry laptops as well as basic Adobe image manipulation tools (e.g., Photoshop). These range from older Core i7 based laptops with at least 4GB of RAM and 256GB of storage (7200RPM HDD or SSD's preferred) to more recent Core i5/i7 6th generation processors (or better) with at least 4GB of RAM and 250GB of storage (7200RPM HDD or SSD's preferred). In all cases some GPU acceleration will enhance the student's experience.

Higher End Laptops (another name is "gaming" laptops) cover all previous applications and enable the full suite of Adobe's Creative Cloud. These are recent seventh and eighth generation Core i5/i7-7/8xxx based processors with 8-16GB or RAM, a 9xx or 10xx nVidia (or equivalent AMD/Apple) GPU and a minimum 256GB SSD (or 7200RPM HDD).

Notes (below):

There are no current plans to support Ubuntu or Linux.

Virus Protection: Microsoft Security Essentials and Defender or Sophos (Mac) are just fine. Both are free and heavily tested to provide solid virus protection

Filters will be placed on internet access, however it is strongly recommended that parents place additional filters on their students device.

BYOD: Tablets The role of Tablets (iPad, Galaxy, etc) are limited to that of secondary or back-up devices and are not replacements for a primary device (laptop). To be effective students will need to have a Bluetooth/wireless keyboard for their tablet. All assignments done on iPads will also need to be converted to Microsoft Word prior to assignment submission. Note: iPads do not read Flash video, limiting access to Youtube videos.

Sincerely,

Angie Taylor
Head of School
Valor Christian School International

