

SJHS Minimum Requirements for BYOD Devices (rev. 11-05-14)

Operating System

Mac OS 10.7 or above

Windows 7 or higher

Google Chromium OS (Chromebooks – self updating OS)

Software

Word processing – Microsoft Word, Pages, Google Drive/Apps (provided by SJPS), OpenOffice

Spreadsheet - Microsoft Excel, Numbers, Google Drive/Apps (provided by SJPS), OpenOffice

Presentation – Microsoft PowerPoint, Keynote, Google Drive/Apps (provided by SJPS), OpenOffice

Note taking – OneNote, Notes, Evernote

Internet browser – SJPS recommends recent versions of Firefox, Chrome, and Safari

Antivirus – strongly recommended on PC and Mac platforms, not necessary for Chromebooks

Hardware

Wireless Connection -Devices must have wireless capability. All Saint Joseph Public School (SJPS) campuses are equipped with both 2.4Ghz and 5Ghz WiFi radios, so a device with either or both capabilities is acceptable.

Battery Life – Devices should be expected to last the entire school day (minimum of 5 hours) with normal use. Opportunities to charge devices in school are limited and subject to teacher discretion.

Storage and RAM – recommend a minimum of 16GB of storage on the device and 4GB of RAM for most operating systems, however 2GB of RAM may be sufficient for some devices.

Screen size – SJPS recommends a minimum 11” screen.

Input devices – A device with a keyboard is minimum requirement as is a mouse, trackpad, or other pointing device. Some touch screens may meet this requirement, such as a Microsoft Surface Pro, but we strongly discourage use of tablets, both Android and Apple (iPads) at this time.

Special features – Camera and microphone will ensure students can participate in 21st century learning activities and collaboration.

Headphones/Earbuds

A protective case is strongly recommended regardless of the device.

Printer – Printing at SJHS is limited to SJPS maintained devices, and printing from personal devices will not be permitted. There are opportunities to print from the Media Center computers using USB drives or

through access to Google Cloud storage. However, it is strongly recommended that students print their documents at home to minimize class disruption and prevent late assignments.

Considerations

Most Chromebooks will meet the minimum requirements set forth by SJPS, however realize that many devices of this nature require full time access to the Internet in able to access the applications. If you expect your student to work while in areas without wireless Internet access, please ensure the device will work in “offline mode” before making a purchase decision. These devices are also limited by applications that are available in Google Apps (which SJPS provides) and what is available in the Google Play Store. <https://play.google.com/store>

Windows 8.1 tablets work extremely well with a keyboard, but realize the difference between the Microsoft Surface Pro and Surface RT. The RT version is limited by apps that can be installed through Microsoft. <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-8/apps#Cat=t0> This still meets the requirements, but understand the difference before making a purchase decision.

SJPS has used Macintosh computers for many years with great success. As stated however, we do not recommend an iPad for BYOD, as the screen size and platform limits the capabilities of the device, and may not meet some of our online assessment requirements. The MacBook Air model has proven to be a great performer however.

Document your device serial number at home and we recommend you add this information to the Parent Portal in Power School. Place a label with the student’s name on the device and all cables and accessories. Password protect your device.

Links below are options for purchasing devices, but we recommend supporting local business whenever possible.

Apple <http://store.apple.com/us/buy-mac/macbook-air>

Microsoft <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-8/windows-pcs>

HP <http://store.hp.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/us/en/Laptops/view-all/>

Lenovo <http://shop.lenovo.com/us/en/portals/students/>

Chromebooks https://play.google.com/store/devices/collection/promotion_50000c0_chromebook_us

TigerDirect <http://www.tigerdirect.com/applications/Category/guidedSearch.asp?CatId=17>

NewEgg <http://www.newegg.com/Laptops-Notebooks/Category/ID-223>

These are software and hardware recommendations that SJPS has had previous success with, but are by no means an endorsement of any product over another. Our goal is for a platform independent BYOD environment at St. Joseph High School.

Classroom activities may still warrant that the teacher has the class utilize a computer lab equipped with specialized hardware/software.