Student Computer Purchasing Guide 24-25

Voyager Academy requires that every student in grades 6-12 have his or her own laptop for use in school and at home as a part of our Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program. Students use their computers extensively for academic purposes. Refer to the BYOD policy for information regarding expectations and consequences.

Hardware Requirements

- Physical Keyboard. On screen/touch keyboards are insufficient.
- Battery that can last an entire school day, 8 hours or more.
- 8GB or more of RAM for Windows and Apple Mac OS X devices.
- At least 4GB or more of RAM (8GB Preferred) for Chromebooks.
- Storage: 32GB or higher eMMC or SSD storage for Chromebooks.
- Storage: 128GB or higher of storage for Windows and Apple Mac OS X devices.
- Headphone 3.5mm port for audio.
- 11 inch or larger screen/display.

Operating System Requirements

- Windows - 10 or higher (Windows devices are preferred)
- Mac OS X - 11 or higher
- Chrome OS - The device should support the latest stable version of Chrome OS at the time of purchase. Automatic Updates: The Chromebook should receive automatic software updates from Google for a minimum of 5 years from the date of its release or a minimum of 6.5 years from the device's original launch date (whichever is longer).

  Note: The actual AUE (Auto Update Expiration) date varies for different Chromebook models. To ensure that the device does not exceed the AUE date, it is recommended to check the specific AUE date for the desired Chromebook model before making a purchase.

Network Connectivity Requirements

- Wifi 5 (802.11ac), or Wifi 6 (802.11ax).

  Note: Students are required to connect to Voyager's WiFi for Internet access when at school. Use of cellular connections on campus is prohibited.

Other Items to Consider

- A protective case is highly recommended.
- Laptop weight and size (carried all day to classes)
- Is there a warranty if the device is damaged? Is it covered under homeowner's insurance?
- Antivirus needed? At no cost, students can download the Avast https://www.avast.com or AVG https://www.avg.com.

Financial Hardship

The BYOD program should not be a barrier to learning for any Voyager student. Families who are financially unable to provide a computer for their student(s) should contact the School Social Worker directly.