



BYOD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2025-26

The integration of digital technology continues to play a transformative role in student learning—both in the classroom and beyond. To fully participate in the learning experience at CIS, it is essential that each Middle School and High School student has a reliable and capable personal device. Choosing the right laptop involves several considerations, including price, battery life, processing power, and compatibility with school-required software.

Below are our updated recommendations to guide families in selecting an appropriate device.

Preferred Devices

At CIS, students in **Middle School and High School** are expected to bring a **full-featured laptop**—either **Windows or macOS**—to ensure compatibility with all required academic software.

CHROMEBOOKS AND TABLETS ARE NOT PERMITTED

While Chromebooks may offer basic functionality for web browsing and light document editing, they **do not support the wide range of professional-grade software** used in our curriculum. Students must have a device capable of installing and running applications such as:

- Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, Illustrator, Lightroom, Premiere Pro)
- Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel)
- Autodesk
- Other curriculum-specific programs provided by CIS

CIS provides students with licenses for these applications, but they **must be installed on a compatible operating system** (Windows or macOS). A Chromebook's limited operating system cannot run these essential tools.

Minimum Recommended Specifications – PC / MacBook

These specs should be used as a reference when purchasing a device:

- **Processor:** Intel i5 (or equivalent/better)
- **RAM:** Minimum 8 GB
- **Screen Size:** 13" or larger
- **Battery Life:** Minimum of 5 hours (recommended)
- **Operating System:** Windows 10 or higher / macOS 11 or higher
- **Storage:** 256 GB SSD or larger



Notes When Buying

Device Lifespan:

All devices have a limited lifespan, which depends on how they're used and maintained, as well as how quickly software requirements evolve. Families should expect students to need **at least two devices** during their Middle and High School years.

Protective Case

We strongly recommend purchasing a **hard-shell case** to protect the laptop from bumps and pressure inside backpacks.

Laptop Size vs Portability

Larger laptops may offer more power and larger screens but can be heavy and bulky for daily transport. Consider a balance between performance and portability.

Device Care & Security

- Always use a password-protected user account.
- Carry the device in a **dedicated padded sleeve or case**, even inside a school bag.
- Do **not store items (books, chargers, etc.)** in the same compartment as the laptop.
- Avoid placing laptops at the **bottom of a backpack**, as pressure can damage screens or internal components.
- Label the laptop with the **student's name** (engraving or durable sticker recommended).
- **Students are responsible** for the care and security of their devices.

Warranty

Most laptops come with a 1-year warranty, and many offer the option to purchase an extended 3-year warranty. Warranties usually cover manufacturer defects but do **not** cover accidental damage.

Software, Viruses & Backup

- **Manage software wisely:** A cluttered laptop can become slow and unresponsive. Students should avoid installing unnecessary software.
- Keep antivirus and anti-malware protection up to date.
- **Backup regularly:** Students are responsible for safeguarding their own files.
 - CIS provides **unlimited Google Drive storage** through the student's school account.

Reminder

CIS does not provide maintenance or repair services for student-owned devices.

If you have any questions or would like assistance with choosing a device, please feel free to contact me at **fabio.rocco@cis.ky**