

EMS BYOD Device Requirements

BYOD was implemented for all 8th grade students in January 2016. In January 2017, we required all 7th grade students have a wireless laptop or tablet with a keyboard device they can bring to school each day and use in classrooms. For the fall of 2017, all 8th grade and all 7th grade students will start the year with BYOD devices. 6th grade will start BYOD in January 2018.

Laptops/Netbooks are the preferred devices. Tablets may be used if they have a keyboard (Bluetooth). Smart phones will not be an acceptable device for classroom work, although they may be used in addition to a laptop or tablet.

In District 20's experience, devices that do not meet the minimum specifications listed below do not provide an ideal student experience.

Reviewed by the Director of IT-Support Services and the Director of IT-Education Services (5/2017)

Wireless Laptop/Netbook:

Our teachers strongly encourage the use of a laptop/netbook over a tablet

COMPONENT	MINIMUM RECOMMENDED
CPU	Intel Core 2 Duo, 1GHz or AMD X2 Dual Core Processor
Battery Life	4 hours minimum
System RAM (Memory)	8GB or more
Wireless Card	802.11 a/g/n/ac
Hard Drive Storage	128 GB or more
Operating System (64 bit)	PC: Windows 10 Mac: OSX v.10.9
USB Ports (2.0)	2 or more

Chromebooks

Although D20 does not support Chromebooks, it has been our experience at EMS that these devices meet our needs. We have been able to connect most of them to our network. If you are considering purchasing a Chromebook, please make sure it is a newer model, with dual antennae.

*In Windows devices using Windows 10, "Family Safety" interferes with Academy District 20's filtering system, and should **not** be enabled.

Apple iPad Tablet with Wireless Keyboard:

COMPONENT	MINIMUM RECOMMENDED
CPU	iPad 4 th Generation, iPad Air, iPad Air 2, iPad Pro
Display Size	9.7" Diagonal or larger
Storage	32GB or more
Operating System (64 bit)	iOS 10
Keyboard (Required)	Bluetooth
Stylus	Optional, highly recommended

Non-iPad Tablet with Wireless Keyboard:

COMPONENT	MINIMUM RECOMMENDED
Display Size	8" Diagonal or larger
Storage	32 GB or more
Operating System	Android OS 6 (Marshmallow) or newer
Wireless Card	802.11 a/b/g/n
Keyboard (Required)	Bluetooth or USB
Stylus	Optional, highly recommended

Required Applications:

- Anti-Virus software with up-to-date definitions (See our BYOD webpage for links to free products)
- Anti-Malware software with up-to-date-definitions (See our BYOD webpage for links to free products)

Many Internet Service providers (Comcast, Century Link) provide these products to customers.

Other Essential Considerations

Caseing: Is the case tough and sturdy? Can it be dropped without breaking? Look for a tough and thick outer shell. You want a device that will last several years.

Weight: Is the laptop light enough for your child to carry each day?

Durability: Consider the overall durability of the device. Are its keys and inputs sturdy?

Warranty: Consider purchasing an extended warranty to reduce future repair costs as this device will be used extensively.

Suggested Accessories:

- Spare battery or extended battery pack
- Portable Charging Power Pac
- Earbuds
- USB mouse
- Carrying case or backpack with padding to protect the laptop. For tablets, can also provide ergonomic advantages.
- 4 GB or larger USB 2.0 Jump/Flash Drive or USB powered portable hard drive (for backup or moving files to other locations)
- Laptop locking device (typically a cable with lock)
- Insurance – see our BYOD page for a link to 3rd party insurance options

Suggested Free Applications:

- Adobe Reader 9.0 or newer
- Adobe Flash
- Mozilla Firefox
- Safari (MAC only)
- Adobe Shockwave
- Google Chrome
- Open Office
- Java