LAPTOP PURCHASING GUIDE

Figuring out what specifications a laptop should have for school can be confusing. Hopefully, this guide will help you make an informed decision on what kind of device to purchase for your student. These suggestions are for people on a budget looking to get a laptop that will be able to adequately perform in a school setting (word processing, presentations, etc.). If you are looking for a device that can also be used for gaming, video, photo or sound editing these suggestions may not be adequate. This guide will explain what the different specifications mean and will help you make an informed decision about what laptop is best for your student.

THE BASICS	OTHER OPTIONAL FEATURES

· Keyboard
· Minimum 10" screen (iPad sized or bigger)
· A camera for photos and video
· The ability to connect to the internet
 	
Recommend a Windows 10 device (unless alternative is already owned)
	· Touchscreen is nice, not required
	  · Good: Passive touch screen
	  · Better: Active touch screen
	· Ruggedized (with or without a protective case)
	· Compact size
	· 6 hour battery life
	· *Optional: An extra charge cord – one stays plugged in at home, one for the student's backpack*

Laptop Specifications Guide

Screen: There are two kinds of screen resolution HD (high definition) and FHD (full high definition). Full HD has a resolution of 1920x1080 pixels while regular HD has 1280x720. This

predominantly affects what video, graphics and images will look like on the screen. A Full HD screen will look better, but for school purposes a regular HD screen will work.

Acceptable: HD
Better: Full HD

Processor: Most computers will have processors from either Intel or AMD. The computer should have at least an Intel i3 processor or an AMD Ryzen 3. These brands are interchangeable and neither is preferable over the other.

Acceptable: Intel i3 or AMD Ryzen 3
Better: Anything above the three series from both companies.

RAM: 4 GB of RAM is the minimum you should consider otherwise the computer will be very slow.
Acceptable: 4GB of RAM
Better: 8GB of RAM

Memory: 128 GB Solid State Drives (SSD), are the standard right now. There is no need to go over this amount because School District 43 provides all students with cloud storage. Avoid getting a laptop that has an HDD.

Acceptable: 128 SSD

Operating System: Windows 10 is the most straightforward operating system and will synergize well with a lot of the software used at the school.

Recommended: Windows 10

Following the above specifications should provide you with an affordable laptop that will be able to perform all the necessary functions at a BYOD school. Please keep in mind that these are the **MINIMUM** requirements for a computer that will be used primarily for word processing and presentations.

Know there are good $500 options available. Don't anticipate more than 4 years of use.

 * You do not need to purchase Microsoft Office as it is provided free to all students by the district.