

Technology FAQ's for Incoming Grade 9 Students



Technology Questions

Q: Where do we go for help or questions?

A: The WAVE is open everyday and has staff and students there to support you. The WAVE is located in the library. You can also email: 132-lif@sd43.bc.ca at any time.

Q: Is there a device you recommend?

A: No. While it is important to ensure that the device meets the minimum requirements recommended, we know that each user has a preference or tendency towards a specific device (Apple users tend to like Apple products etc.). Each device has pros and cons. Devices that are Windows based integrate well with our SD43 Network, and recently, we have noticed students preferring laptops with touchscreen and writing ability, over tablets. Currently, **Office365 is not fully supported on some Android devices while at Riverside**, however, it does work on most personal networks. Generally, devices that will work well for your child are in the \$400-\$600 range.

Q: If my child has a laptop already, do I need to also get them a tablet?

A: No. The tablet is useful for writing and apps. However, students will still be able to use paper and pencil, work books, and textbooks when needed. Laptops are fine.

Q: If I cannot afford to purchase a device, what do I do?

A: Our goal is to have 80%-90% of our students arrive with a device. If a family is unable to obtain a device, they should contact their child's counsellor. The counsellors will create a list of students and we will do our best to provide access to a device for the school year. Since the school will own those devices, students will be responsible for returning them at the end of the school year and will be responsible for any loss or damage to the device.

Q: Will all content (workbooks, textbooks, novels, etc.) be digital?

A: Where it makes sense to migrate to digital content, we will do so. Currently, publishers are still trying to make on-line texts and e-books more cost effective. So, where it is financially viable, we will migrate to digital content. In most cases, teachers have created their own resources which can easily be created in pdf format for digital consumption.

Q: Will the device last 4 years?

A: While it is difficult to say how technology will evolve over a four year term, most users keep their technology for 4-6 years. In some households, families may choose to turn over their technology more regularly.

Q: What are the minimum suggested requirements for a device?

- Ability to write / touchscreen / stylus
- Protective case
- Keyboard / built in camera and microphone
- Storage and Memory: 256 GB | 8GB RAM
- Processor Type: Intel Core i5-4200U (or similar)
- Minimum 11" screen (larger screens are easier to work on, however they are larger to transport)
- Apps – See some of our recommendations
- Android 9.0 or higher, iOS 13, Windows 10, Mac laptop (min. macOS Catalina 10.15)

Q: Do you have any further information on the 1:1 device initiative at Riverside?

A: Here is a [link](#) to our website and resources, including the presentation from the parent night.