

## CAULFEILD IDEC: Getting Ready for Bring Your Own Device in Intermediate



At Caulfeild IDEC, all students in grades 4-7 are expected to bring their own laptop to school on a daily basis. In order to make the first few weeks in September run as smoothly as possible for your child, we ask for your help. We have noticed if a student comes prepared with a few skills and tools, the transition to working with individual student devices is significantly smoother.

These are the **Laptop Specifications** we suggest:

- Wireless connection: Must be g capable; recommend g and n capable (most new laptops will meet this standard)
- Processor- 1.6 GHz minimum
- RAM – 2 GB minimum; 4GB recommended
- Battery- 3 or 6 cell minimum; 9 cell recommended
- Operating system - Windows 7 (PC), Windows 8 (PC); latest OS X Mountain Lion (there is no “best” system)

Useful review: This longer review on laptops for kids has some specific recommendations from a trusted source: <https://www.pcmag.com/roundup/357431/the-best-laptops-for-kids>

**Important things to consider when choosing a device:**

1. Durability - look for a ‘semi-ruggedized’ device, models with good durability ratings
2. Battery Life - a device with a long battery is preferable as there are not sufficient nor convenient outlets in classrooms for students to charge their devices while sitting at the tables.

Used Laptops: Some parents give their kids a 'hand-me-down' laptop. This can be a good solution, but the old laptop should still be running smoothly and have reasonable battery life (4 hours).

**Computer needs:**

- To allow for easy internet access. Please don't set security too high! Do be mindful of too many passwords. If all controls are password controlled, and your child does not know the passwords, it is impossible for us to help problem solve issues
- We have been successfully using Google Classroom on Chrome – please make sure they have Chrome as an internet browser. We use Google Docs, Slides, etc., (you may still use Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, but it is not necessary to purchase it)
- Have a working printer at home

- Develop the habit of charging the computer each night, to be prepared for the school day
- Clearly label computer, charger and all accessories

**Some ways to help your child be prepared are:**

- Turning computer on and off
- Knowing how to charge the computer
- Being able to save files on their hard drive or a google drive
- Knowing how to print at home
- Knowing how to create folders

**What to practice over the summer:**

- Navigating and becoming familiar with their computer
- Keyboarding skills. There are many free programs or you may want to check out a subscription to Keyboarding Without Tears.

As a digital school we strive to provide opportunities for our students to be able to access the most current knowledge and be producers, rather than simply consumers of technology while ensuring they understand how to do so in a safe and responsible manner.