

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



Dear Parents/ Guardians:

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- 2 GHz recommended
- RAM - 4GB to 8GB recommended
- Battery- 6 cell minimum; 9 cell recommended
- Operating system - Windows 10 (PC), recent OS X

Useful review: This longer review on laptops for kids has some specific recommendations from a respected source:

<https://www.pcmag.com/roundup/357431/the-best-laptops-for-kids>

If you are considering a Macbook: You can find detailed information about Macbooks on the Apple website or consult other sites that review and compare laptops:

<https://www.apple.com/ca/macbook-pro/>

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.
3. Coding - PCs are preferable for those families registering their child for the District Coding and/or Robotics after school programs

4. 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 Google drive
- Being able to access files saved the cloud or on their device
- 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 typing programs available online to help build speed and accuracy. One free program can be found at: <https://typetastic.com/> scroll down to the "All Fingers Aboard" Section. This site, like other free sites, will need to be reviewed by families before use to determine appropriateness with regards to the ads that will run on this platform.

Student Technology Agreement:

- [2021-22 Student Technology Agreement](#): A brief but effective review of our digital policies and expectations (We will provide an updated 2022-23 version for students and families in September)

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.

Sincerely,

Trevor Kolkea
Principal