

Suggested requirements for “Bring Your Own Device” at Norwalk High School

Please remember that you **DO NOT** have to buy a laptop at all, and there will be machines available to use during classes. If you choose to purchase a laptop, here are some helpful tips to take with you as you shop. These suggestions are based upon the needs of your student while he/she is in grades 9-12, but you may want to consider future plans for your student. If you are purchasing a laptop for a senior, it is likely he/she will take the laptop to college and that will impact your purchasing decision.

	Budget	Better
Ram	At least 4GB	8GB or more
Processor	Celeron, Intel i3, AMD Ryzen 3	Intel i5 or better AMD Ryzen 3 or 5
Hard Drive -HDD is slower -SSD is faster -eMMC has many limitations.	32GB-64 GB eMMC (also called flash memory)	64-128GB SSD
Screen Size (measured diagonally)	At least 10”	13” or larger

Brand names: We will not recommend a specific brand or laptop because that is your decision. Norwalk City School District currently has a mix of HP, Samsung, Lenovo, and ASUS machines, but you’ll find many other brands as well and they all have their strengths and weaknesses. We suggest talking with a salesperson at a store and/or reading the reviews online.

What’s the difference between a Chromebook and another laptop? Chromebooks exclusively use the Chrome operating system and must have an internet connection to function. They are often less expensive, but they are limited to one operating system, you can’t download files to them, and Google sets their lifespan at five years. Other laptops might have a Windows or Mac operating system. The newest versions of these are Windows 10 and Mac Mojave. You may also choose a **tablet** with an Android, Windows, or Mac operating system. If you choose an iPad or other tablet, please get a keyboard and mouse to go with it. The minimum vertical resolution of a tablet should be at least 760. For example, a resolution of 1366 x 760 would suffice.

Do you need a touchscreen? This is a matter of personal preference.

Ports: Laptops usually have ports such as USB, USB-C, and HDMI. You’ll want USB ports for plugging in a mouse and/or keyboard; HDMI is handy if you’re plugging in a larger monitor for home/desktop use. An Ethernet port won’t be useful in high school, but it might be at college. Smaller laptops usually have fewer ports, so you’ll want to watch for that.

Battery life: Your student should bring his/her charger to school and there will be places to plug in, but a longer battery life (at least 5 hours) is recommended.

Bags/sleeves: Because of the district policy prohibiting book bags, students may not carry a laptop bag. We recommend they use a padded protective sleeve.

Refurbished machines: At the lower price points, you’ll find refurbished machines listed right along with new ones, so please read the fine print and make sure you know what you are getting. It is your decision, but please consider how quickly technology becomes outdated.

Tech help: Please know that, because of liability, our tech department will help or advise students, but we will not physically touch student-owned machines.