

BYOD Recommendations for 2018

A printable PDF version of this page can be downloaded here: [WHS BYOD Recommendations for 2017 \(Created 01.12.2016\)](#)

Students are encouraged to bring a device to school at all year levels at Wellington High School. The integration of digital technology continues to have a transformative effect on learning in the classroom and outside. Ensuring your son or daughter has an adequate device is very important and requires consideration of many factors: price, battery life, processing speed (processor plus RAM), and software requirements. Below is a list of recommendations and ideas for the power and type of device students should be aiming to bring along to school.

Laptops, Notebooks, and Mac Books are preferred as they support all software that may be required at all levels. Chromebooks are an option at year 9 and 10 as students work in a google apps environment. Seniors may also use Chromebooks depending on course selection as some courses will have greater software needs.

Android Tablets and Apple iPads are light and portable and may work in certain situations, but are limited in functionality. Tablets coupled with a keyboard improve their functionality, but they are still limited to an apps environment.

Minimum Recommended Specifications – PC / Mac Book

Below is a list of specifications that should be considered when deciding what device to purchase. You can take these specifications to your local computer hardware store and they should be able to recommend a good device for you.

- Processor: Intel i3 Dual Core, AMD E2/A4 Dual Core (Equivalent or better)
- RAM: Minimum 4GB
- Screen: 11" or bigger
- Battery: Recommended Minimum of 5 hours
- Antivirus: Recommended
- Operating System: Windows 8.1 / OS X 10.9 (or better)
- Hard Drive: SSD Recommended

Minimum Recommended Specifications – Chrome Book

Chromebooks work in an app environment (similar to tablets) and software cannot be installed onto them. A Chromebook can be used for most tasks at year 9 – 10 level but may not be appropriate for senior courses where extra software may be required. There are no specific recommendations WHS makes in relation to Chromebooks as they are all powerful enough for the demands of junior classes. Consideration should be given as to what software may be required in the future for your student's course of study. A current list of software requirements and senior courses can be found [here](#).

Example Devices

Below are example devices that meet the recommended minimum specifications. All of these devices are available from local computer hardware stores in Wellington. **Prices were retrieved on the 29th of August 2017.**



\$599.00 – Dell Inspiron 11" 3000 Laptop
N3710 Quad Core Processor
4GB RAM
128GB SSD
Intel® HD Graphics 405
Windows 10
Manufacturer Warranty: 12 months



\$1649.00 – Apple 13" MacBook Air
1.8GHz Intel Core i5 Dual Core
8GB RAM
128GB flash storage
Intel HD Graphics 6000
MacOS Sierra
Manufacturer Warranty: 12 months



\$339.00 – HP 11.6" G5 Chromebook
Intel N2840 2.16GHz Dual Core
2GB RAM
16GB SSD
Intel HD 400 Graphics
Google Chrome OS
Manufacturer Warranty: 12 months



\$599.00 – Lenovo 14" Ideapad 320 Laptop
2.2GHz AMD A4 9120
4GB RAM
128GB SSD
AMD UMA
Windows 10
Manufacturer Warranty: 12 months



\$2199.00 – Apple 13" MacBook Pro
2.3GHz Intel Core i5 Dual Core
8GB RAM
128GB SSD Storage
Intel Iris Plus Graphics 640
MacOS Sierra
Manufacturer Warranty: 12 months



\$379.00 – Acer 11.6" C731 Chromebook
Intel N3160 1.6Ghz Quad Core
4GB RAM
16GB SSD
Intel HD 400 Graphics
Google Chrome OS
Manufacturer Warranty: 12 months

Buying a device for your student

Option 1 – We have an arrangement with Cyclone Computers.

They offer very competitive pricing through a secure portal. To purchase through Cyclone Computers or to have a look at their pricing, follow this link:

<http://byod.cyclone.co.nz/wellingtonhigh>

The login credentials are as follows:

Login: wellingtonhigh

Password: WHS2017

The website utilises a standard 'shopping cart' model and will ship the machine to your door. The checkout offers a range of payment options. Students do not need to purchase any other software for the machine. Shipping should take between 3 – 5 days depending on availability.

Please note that we strongly recommend that you invest in a good, hard case for the device as the single biggest problem we have had is broken screens. There are some good cases available on the Cyclone website (and in shops selling computer equipment).

Option 2 – Purchase elsewhere or use an existing machine

We are happy for you to purchase elsewhere or use a machine from home but please make sure it conforms to the minimum specifications listed previously.

Notes When Buying:

SSD vs HDD – A **SSD (Solid State Drive)** is less susceptible to failure due to movement and bumps as they are solid and not mechanical. However, they are more expensive than a traditional **HDD (Hard Disk Drive)**.

Life of Device – All devices and hardware have a limited life span. This is affected by the user and their treatment of the device. It's also affected by a rapidly changing environment with software that demands more powerful operating systems and devices on an ongoing basis. A well-built laptop that is well treated will go close to lasting a student for their five secondary years of schooling, but it will probably struggle with speed in the last two years. Families should plan for a student to go through a minimum of two devices for the secondary years. Wellington High School also recommends that families invest in a hard case that will protect their student's laptop while it is in their bag.

Big Laptop vs Smaller Notebook – Larger laptops are generally more powerful than Notebooks and can be easier to use. However they are bulkier, heavier and therefore more difficult to carry around the school and from class to class.

Software Management – Having a fast computer is good but managing software installed on your device is also important. A computer with a lot of software installed will slow down and reduce the battery run time. Installing software from unknown or non-trusted locations may invite **malware** and other bits and pieces which could cause harm to your computer and slow it down. Students need to be aware of what they install on their machine and carefully manage their installed software.

Windows XP & Vista is not recommended – Machines running Windows XP or Vista are not supported or recommended by Wellington High School. Windows XP is no longer supported by Microsoft and is not receiving security updates. Mainstream support for Windows Vista also ended in 2012. There is only very limited support by Microsoft for Windows Vista.

Student Device Care and Security – Mishandling laptops is the largest cause of problems at Wellington High School. Most devices will come with care guidelines which we advise users to read. The following are conditions that we recommend.

- Portable devices should be protected by a username and password. This should not be disclosed to other students.
- Always store the laptops in a protective bag. Do not store anything else inside the laptop bag. (Chargers, papers)
- Avoid storing your laptop at the bottom of your school bag – pressure from books can damage the screen and hinges.
- Carry your laptop within its protective cover inside your normal school bag. Do not overfill your school bag. (Pressure on the laptop can cause permanent damage to the screen and other components)
- Never lift the laptop by the screen. This will stress the hinge mechanism, which also carries the data and power supply to the screen.
- Never leave your laptop in unsupervised areas during the school day.

The security of a student-owned device is the responsibility of the student. Where possible, laptops should be engraved or labeled with the student's name.

Warranty – Most machines come with a 1-year warranty and a 3-year optional warranty. The majority of laptop warranties cover hardware problems that were not caused by the owner, such as defective keyboards, monitor problems or other issues with internal components. The laptop warranty generally covers the parts and labor for repairs. A warranty will not cover damage inflicted by the owner or someone else.

Insurance – Most theft or damage will be covered by your existing home contents policy. Please check with your insurance provider that this is the case. Unfortunately, in most cases, an excess will apply so you will need to weigh up whether to make a claim. The owner of the device is responsible for insurance cover.

Virus and Malware Protection – Ensure that the virus and malware protection on portable devices is kept up to date. [Click here to learn more about malware](#)

Saving and Backup – Students are responsible for their own backup of critical data at all times. This may be through a USB drive, SD card, external drive, or cloud-based solution. Students have access to Google Drive via their school account with Unlimited storage for their enrollment at WHS.