



Personal Device (BYOD) Learning Initiative

Device Buying Guide And Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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Personal Device Learning Initiative Guide

This document is intended to provide the requirements for bringing your own device (BYOD) or purchasing a device for your school. **This information may be updated from time to time. Please visit your schools web page for the most recent version of this information.**

While laptops and tablets (with a screen size of 10 inches or larger) are suitable hardware for this initiative, most students prefer to use laptops. The following information is intended to assist you with deciding what device best suits your child(s) needs. The Louis Riel School Division cannot recommend one manufacturer's device over another, but would be glad to comment on the suitability of a device you are considering purchasing. If you have any further questions about buying a device please email studentowned@lrsd.net

Devices that are recommended:

- 1. Windows based Laptops and tablet hybrids** – Any Windows device running Windows 10 is compatible with LRSD's network. The price point for these devices can range from \$250 and up. Some Windows 10 tablet/laptop hybrids come with a digital pen which allows students to write on their screens. This feature can be advantageous for students who prefer writing instead of typing. Example – [Huawei Matebook](#) or the [Surface Pro 4](#)
Note – Any Windows 7 device can be used in our learning environment but it isn't fully recommended due to security vulnerabilities. If your child has a Windows 7 device it can be upgraded to Windows 10 for free by going here – lrsd.onthehub.com
- 2. Mac Laptops** – Mac laptops are fully compatible with LRSD's network. The price point for these devices can range from \$1200 and up.
Note – Any Mac laptop should be running the latest operating system to ensure that it is fully compatible with our network. Currently this version is Sierra. This fall the OS upgrade will be High Sierra. All upgrades are free.
- 3. iOS and Android Tablets** – iOS and Android tablets are also compatible with LRSD's network. The price point for these devices are usually \$400 and up. *It is recommended that a keyboard is purchased to accompany this device to make typing more practical.*
Note – Any iOS tablet should be running iOS 10.3. Any android tablet should be running version 7.0 (Nougat).

Acquiring a Device:

Currently there are 4 ways to acquire a device:

- 1. Purchase a New Device** – New devices can range from as low as \$300 to well over \$1500 (Depending on the brand and model). If purchasing a new device, it is suggested that you wait until later this summer to take advantage of many back to school sales that occur at that time. (See Appendix A at the end of this document)
- 2. Purchase a Used Device** – Used devices can be a great value for many families. They can range from \$250 and up and are well suited for this initiative. LRSD has a partnership with CDI computers that allows parents to purchase a wide array of off-lease, enterprise quality laptops that come with a one year warranty. Click [here](#) to learn more about this partnership and browse our online store.
- 3. Purchase a Used Device by applying for the Laptop Voucher Program** – For families that need assistance with purchasing a device for their child, LRSD has a laptop voucher program. This program offers used laptops from Powerland Computers for a onetime cost of \$149. To qualify for this offer families must contact the school where their child will be attending to get approval. (Laptops will be available after August 21st) Only families with school approval and the proper paperwork will be able to purchase from Powerland.

- 4. Long Term Loan Program** – Laptops will be provided for students who can't obtain one via the previous 3 methods
Ex. Financial circumstances. To be eligible for the long-term loan program parents/guardians must meet with school admin. Students who receive these laptops have use for them the entire year and it can be used at home.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- 1.** Are there any devices not compatible with this program?

The following devices will not work with the school division's internal systems and are not recommended. Several factors including; limited screen size or screen resolution, the inability to connect and use LRSD online documents, assignments or software are factors with the devices listed here.

- i. Chromebooks (Google's cloud based OS)
- ii. Tablets with screens smaller than 10 inches

- 2.** Do we need to purchase any additional software?

No additional software will be required beyond the device's operating system and an internet browser which all systems ship with. Louis Riel School Division uses Microsoft Office 365 which offers a variety of software programs such as: Microsoft Office, Sway, Forms and Class OneNote. All LRSD students are eligible to download Microsoft Office 2016 for up to 5 personal devices that they have for their school laptop or at home.

<https://www.lrsd.net/schools/DCI/News/Pages/Office-for-Students.aspx>

- 3.** Should we purchase virus protection software?

If you purchase a Windows device you do not need to buy an Anti-Virus program. There is an antivirus program already built into the operating system (Windows 8 or higher). If your laptop is running Windows 7, we recommend you use Microsoft Security Essentials (Free). You can find a link to install the software here <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows/products/security-essentials>.

- 4.** Will the students have open access to the internet?

No, Louis Riel School Division filters its internet feed blocking around 25 categories of information on the Internet. Students that are connected to the school's wireless system use the exact same filters that we have in place for all school owned devices.

- 5.** What if our device gets stolen?

Theft of personal items can be a concern in a building housing a great many people like a High School. Students need to take responsibility for safeguarding their personal property by not leaving any valuables unattended.

The School Division is not responsible for lost or stolen personal items but has put in place several measures to help secure student belongings;

- i. The school has provided individual student lockers in an area that is monitored by security cameras which will increase security while items are stored in these lockers.
- ii. Louis Riel School Division will also register student devices purchased for the 21st Century Learning Initiative in

the “**STOP Security Plate**” program <http://www.computersecurity.com/stop/> based on parental requests. The Stop Security Plate Program helps to deter the theft of devices, and help to identify lost or stolen devices. Parents must notify the school that they wish to be registered.

6. Do I need to have access to the internet at home?

No, internet access at home, although beneficial, is not necessary for students working in this program. At school the Division will provide free wireless access to the Internet throughout the building.

7. Will the students do all their work on their devices?

We do not expect nor do we encourage the use of student devices 100% of the day as this is impractical from a technology perspective in terms of battery life and not applicable as many classroom activities do not lend themselves to technology infusion.

8. Do I need to buy a special Laptop case?

We don't encourage the use of Laptop cases for the program. Students typically have a backpack for carrying school supplies which they can also use to carry their device. Please insure the backpack has sufficient space to hold all the items a student will need to carry and if possible has some padding or protection for the device. Laptop cases, although designed to carry and protect laptops, also inadvertently 'advertise' their contents and are more prone to be stolen if left unattended.

If you have any further questions about buying a device please email studentowned@lrsd.net

Appendix A – Device Features and Costs Grid

Device	Cost Range	What's inside?	Pros	Cons
Laptops CDI Partnership Program (Recertified)	\$260-400	CPU - Intel i5 520M2.4-2.6 GHz Ram - 4 GB Hard Drive - 250 GB Screen Size - 14 inch Battery Life - 4-5 hours Operating Sys - Windows 10	1. Low cost	1. Low powered CPU but sufficient for everyday needs 2. Used Battery
	\$400 – 500	CPU - Intel i5 3320M/2.6 GHz Ram - 4 GB Hard Drive - 250 GB Screen Size - 14 inch Battery Life - 4-6 hours	1. Low cost 2. Powerful CPU	1. Smaller battery
Laptops CDI Partnership Program (New)	\$400 – 600	CPU - Intel Celeron Ram - 4 - 8GB DDR3 Hard Drive - 500GB Screen Size - 14 - 15 inch Battery Life - 6 hours Operating Sys - Windows 10		1. 15 inch screens are common which means a heavier device.
	\$600 - 1000	CPU - Intel i5 - i7 Ram - 8GB Hard Drive - 500GB – 1TB / *256SSD Screen Size - 14 - 15.inch Battery Life - 5 – 10 hours Operating Sys -	1. More powerful CPU 2. Better graphics 3. Large hard drive 4. * Some models include a solid state HD	1. Expensive
Laptops, touch screen laptops and convertible laptops	\$600 – 1000+	CPU - Intel i5 – i7 Ram - 8 GB – 12 GB Hard Drive - 500GB – 1TB Screen Size - 14-15 inch Battery Life - 5-10 hours Operating Sys - Windows10	1. Devices in this price range offer more power than what is needed for this initiative. 2. Long lasting battery 3. Hybrid laptops are available at this price range i.e.	1. Expensive
Tablets; iOS, Samsung and Microsoft	\$300-500	Display Size: - 8 - 10 inches Storage - 16 – 32+ GB Screen Size - 7-10.6 inch Battery Life - 6 -10 hours	1. Long lasting battery 2. Hybrid device 3. Light weight	1. Slower processor 2. Smaller screen size and no keyboard
	\$500 – 1000+	CPU - Intel i5 – i7 Ram - 2 - 4 GB Hard Drive - 64 – 128+ GB Screen Size - 10 – 12+ inch Battery Life - 8 -10 hours	1. Powerful CPU 2. Long lasting battery 3. Light – 2.0 lbs. 4. Hybrid device 5. Optional keyboard	1. Expensive & smaller screen