



21st Century

Learning Initiative

BYOD, Device

Buying Guide And

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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21st Century Learning Initiative Device Buying Guide

This document provides the requirements for bringing your own device (BYOD) or purchasing a device for the 21st Century Learning Initiative in your school in the Louis Riel School Division (LRSD). This information may be updated from time to time. Please visit your school's web page for the most recent version of this information.

General Information

Students will require a laptop or tablet for the school year and the device will need to interact with the Louis Riel School Division (LRSD) network environment. Windows and Apple laptops are well suited for this initiative as well as iPads (When used with a keyboard). Chromebooks and Android tablets (with a keyboard) can also be used but the Office 365 apps are not as developed, OneNote is one example. For this reason LRSD does not recommend purchasing a Chromebook or Android tablet for this BYOD initiative.

Important Factors to Consider

Based on our experiences with previous year's group of students, we offer the following general recommendations to consider;

- Cost: Purchasing a new laptop or tablet can range in price from \$300.00 and up. However, a device in the \$300.00 to \$600.00 range will be suitable for this program.
- Portability of the device: You will want the device to comfortably fit in their school backpack without weighing them down. Laptops with screen sizes of 13 or 14 inches are preferred due to their size and weight.
- Battery life: Choose a device with at least 6 hours of battery life, enough for the school day.
- The device must have wireless capabilities.
- Suitable CPU, Memory and Storage capabilities.

	Minimum Specification	Preferred Specification
CPU	Intel Celeron N4000	Intel i3 or i5
Memory	4 Gb of RAM	8 Gb or higher
Hard Drive	128 Gb Hard Drive	256 Gb or higher

- Screen size & graphics: Screens larger than 9 inches
- Software: Buying additional software packages is not required. All Louis Riel School Division students are eligible for the Microsoft Student Advantage program. This program provides **Microsoft Office** to all students who attend Louis Riel School Division free of charge for up to 5 computers (Mac or PC). Students will be directed how to download and install the Office suite at the beginning of the school year.
- Used devices that meet the basic requirements will work providing they have batteries capable of at least 4 - 6 hours.

When to Purchase

Purchasing the device as close as possible to the start of the school year (July-August) will have a couple of advantages:

1. Historically there have been great back to school specials available from computer vendors.
2. The device will not have an extra few months of use and drain on its battery life.

What to Purchase

Purchasing a new laptop or tablet can range in price from \$300.00 and up. As mentioned above, a device in the \$300.00 to \$600.00 range will be enough for this program. While LRSD doesn't recommend the purchasing of any specific type of device, below is a purchasing guide with examples of devices that are getting favorable reviews over the past few months:

There are three main categories of devices to consider:

Laptops	Tablets	2 in 1s
		

Laptops

- Laptops are the best, most cost-effective choice for this program.
- They come in three types:
 1. Windows based devices
 2. Macs

Costs

- Entry level: \$300 ([HP Stream Laptop](#))
- Mid-level: \$600+ ([Asus ZenBook](#))
- High level: \$900+ ([Mac Air](#))

Tablets

- A touchscreen without a keyboard (you can connect one using Bluetooth)
- May include a digital pen

1. iPads

Costs

- High level: \$600+ ([iPad](#))

2 in 1s

- A laptop that converts into a touchscreen tablet
- Typically, more powerful and quicker than a tablet, but with a touch screen
- May include a pen
- More expensive
- These are all Windows based devices

Costs

- Entry level: \$500 ([Acer Switch 3](#))
- Mid-level: \$800 ([Acer Spin](#))
- High Level: \$1000+ ([Surface Go 2](#))

- All Windows based laptops and tablets must be running **Windows 10**.
- All Mac laptops should have the newest operating system installed to ensure that the device is compatible with all our online systems. This is also true for all iOS devices.

Purchasing Used Devices

Used laptops/tablets are a great option for families to consider. Please consider the following:

- Used devices that meet the basic requirements will work providing they have batteries capable of at least 4-6 hours.
- Used devices must run Windows 10 to be able to access LRSD Wi-Fi and utilize other resources.

Purchasing Software

No additional software will be required beyond the device's operating system and an internet browser which all systems ship with. As stated before, all LRSD students are eligible to download Microsoft Office 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>

Virus Protection

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 10, 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>.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: What happens if a family cannot afford a device? Will my son/daughter have to go without one?

A: LRSD will provide a device for families that cannot afford to purchase one. This loaner device can be for a few weeks or for the entire year, depending on the circumstances. Please speak to your school administrator if you need to arrange to have a device loaned to you.

Q: Will the students have open access to the internet?

A: 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.

Q: What if our device gets stolen?

A: 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.

Q: Do I need to have access to the internet at home?

A: 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.

Q: Will the students do all their work on their devices?

A: 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.

Q: Do I need to buy a special laptop case?

A: We do not 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 ensure 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.