



Required Device Policy

Appropriate technology tools are an integral part of learning at Brooks School. Several factors, including the adoption of the OnBrooks learning management system and the faculty's need to assume equal access in the classroom to online resources for all students, lead the School to change its policy on computers from a strong recommendation to a requirement. In 2020-2021, all students must bring either a laptop or tablet for use in classes, the brand and specs of which are up to the student's family. While trends change year-to-year, about 95 percent of our students use Apple Macbook Airs or Pros, 2 percent use iPads with keyboards, another 2 percent use Chromebooks, and about 1 percent use Windows-based laptops.

Recommendations:

- The device should be larger than a phone and have a keyboard.
- The device should be purchased in the United States and have a warranty to facilitate repairs in case of failure.
- The device should be less than three years old. This allows for a modern operating system and less likelihood of failure during the academic year.

Our vision is that all of our students will learn to manage digital tools in powerful and ethical ways to meet their educational goals and further their understanding of the world. We don't load up on technology for technology's sake; we work hard to ensure that the most effective and appropriate technology tools are available to our students. As a result, we aim for our students to be savvy, informed, respectful technology users.

Teachers and courses will differ as to the nature and degree of portable device usage. No software is required but students will need a way of writing papers, using spreadsheets and making presentations. We are a G Suite for Education school, and we encourage the utilization of the Google Apps productivity suite including Docs, Sheets and Slides. We have all the infrastructure in place to assure seamless use of all of our technology. In addition to assignment based instruction from teachers in class, there is adult and peer technical assistance available in the Henry Luce Library throughout the school year.

Questions about appropriate devices should be directed to the Office of Information Technology via email: rdoobbins@brooksschool.org or phone: (978) 725-6256.

Sincerely,

Director of Technology Ryan Dobbins
Registrar, Director of Administrative Computing Lisa Saunders