

Harker Middle School BYOD Laptop Program

Middle school marks a significant milestone in your student's academic journey. To ensure technology integrates seamlessly and safely into daily learning, The Harker School operates a **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)** program for grades 6 through 12.

This model gives families the flexibility to choose the laptop platform that best supports their student's success. Because our curriculum involves a diverse range of technical requirements, **every student must bring a laptop to school daily** that meets the specifications outlined below.

Before purchasing a new device, please review our minimum and recommended specifications to ensure your student is prepared for the classroom from day one.

What you need:

- Laptop (Choice of **Windows** or **Mac** Operating System)
 - *Chrome OS, Chromebook, or ipad/tablet NOT SUPPORTED*
 - *Linux OS users are welcome, though Harker tech support will be somewhat limited*

Hardware Specifications

Component	Minimum Specification	Recommended (4-year longevity)
Windows OS	Windows 11 (fully updated)	Windows 11 (fully updated)
macOS	macOS 15 (Sequoia)	macOS 26 (Tahoe) or newer
Processor (PC)	Intel Core i7	Intel Core i7 (current gen)
Processor (Mac)	Apple M4 Chip	Apple M4 Chip
RAM (Memory)	16 GB	32 GB
Storage (SSD)	256 GB SSD	512 GB SSD
Battery Life	3+ hours (bring charger to school)	3+ hours (bring charger to school)
Wireless	802.11 b/g/n (Wi-Fi)	802.11 b/g/n + Bluetooth
Ports	USB 2.0 (with USB-C adapter if needed)	USB 3.0 (with USB-C adapter if needed)
Video Out	Multi-port video adapter	HDMI or USB-C (adapter if needed)
Camera	Built-in Webcam	Built-in Webcam
Warranty	Standard	4-Year with Accidental Damage

Phase 1: Initial Out-of-the-Box Setup

Whether you have a Windows PC or a Mac, the first time you power it on, the device will walk you through a "Setup Assistant."

1. **Connect to Wi-Fi:** Ensure you are on a stable home network to download necessary system updates.
2. **Region & Keyboard:** Select your preferred language and layout.
3. **User Account Creation:** This is the most important step. When prompted to create a user, **use your student's name.**
 - *Note:* This first account created during setup is automatically granted **Administrator** privileges.

Why must the student be the Admin?

Many classroom tools, printer drivers, and specialized software (like lockdown browsers for testing) require administrative "write" permissions. If a student is a "Standard User," they may be blocked from participating in lessons until a parent can enter a password—which isn't feasible during the school day.

Phase 2: Managing Admin Profiles

To prepare for day one, please configure your student's device using the following guidelines:

- **Student as Primary Admin:** Per school policy, students must have administrative rights to independently install required software and manage updates.
- **Parental Oversight:** While students require autonomy for schoolwork, parents are encouraged to create a **secondary administrator account** for troubleshooting and oversight.

On Windows (PC)

- **The Student Account:** Set this up as a "Local Account"
- **Creating a Parent Admin (Optional):**
 1. Go to **Settings > Accounts > Other Users.**
 2. Select **Add Account** and follow the prompts.
 3. Once created, click the account name and select **Change account type** to "Administrator."

On macOS (Mac)

- **The Student Account:** This is the account created during the initial "Hello" setup.
- **Creating a Parent Admin (Optional):**
 1. Go to **System Settings > Users & Groups.**
 2. Click **Add User** (you may need to enter the student's password to unlock this).
 3. Ensure the "New Account" type is set to **Administrator.**

Gear & Protection Requirements

Item	Status	Notes
Padded Carrying Case	Required	Must include a nametag.
Extended Warranty	Recommended	4-year coverage is best for high-end machines.
Accidental/Theft Insurance	Recommended	Available via Safeware or similar providers.
Tracking Software	Highly Recommend	Consider LoJack for Laptops .

Tech Support Available at Harker

If your laptop is experiencing issues, the Help Desk is available on-campus for troubleshooting and support.

Support Hours & Services

- **Hours:** 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM
- **Software Support:** Free troubleshooting, installation assistance, connectivity (Internet), printing, and other school-related software issues.
- **Hardware Support:** Free troubleshooting to diagnose issues.
 - *Note: The Help Desk does **not** perform hardware repairs.*

*Families are responsible for fixes related to hardware and personally-owned software (**Employees of The Harker School may not open any device that is not owned by the school**)*

Students seeking Tech Support must initiate contact with the team by emailing TechHelpMS@harker.org with a detailed explanation of the issues they are having. This email address is not intended for use by teachers or parents.

Announcements are often made via Schoology and/or email about known technical issues or common problems. Students must remain informed about these announcements.

Harker's Loaner Laptop Policy

If a student's laptop is broken or out for repair, the Help Desk can provide a temporary loaner for the duration of the service. For short-term needs, students may borrow a Chromebook from the Library for up to three consecutive days. Library Chromebooks have limited functionality, must remain on

campus, and must be returned by the end of each school day. After three days, students will be referred to Tech Support for a long-term solution.

There are two ways a student can be issued a loaner laptop from Tech Support:

1. The student can bring in a service ticket from the repair location that is working on their device.
2. The student can have the Help Desk assist with troubleshooting the actual laptop to confirm that it is non-functioning.

Rental Fees & Terms

- Issued on a first-come, first-served basis; availability is not guaranteed.
- Loaners may be Chrome OS, Mac, or Windows. You cannot guarantee a specific platform.

Rental Duration	Daily Cost	Total Accrued Cost
Days 1–5	Free	\$0
Days 6–10	\$5 / day	Up to \$25
Days 11–15	\$10 / day	Up to \$75
Days 16–20	\$15 / day	Up to \$150
Days 21–30	\$20 / day	\$250 (Maximum)