

Harker Upper School BYOD Laptop Program

The Harker School supports a 1:1 laptop program in grades 6 through 12. This program is a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program where students and families have the freedom to choose the best laptop platform for success at Harker. Beginning in middle school, students experience a wide range of technology requirements in their classes where a laptop is necessary. Every student is required to have a laptop that meets these requirements every day when they come to school. Please review the following information for minimum and recommended specifications before purchasing a laptop for upper school.

PLEASE NOTE: If your family purchased a laptop for school use at the beginning of sixth grade, that device should be sufficient through the end of ninth grade. Our laptop recommendations are based on an expected four years of use.

What you need:

- Laptop—choice of Windows or Mac Operating System (Chrome OS not supported)
 - Must meet or exceed minimum specifications, recommended specifications are also provided (see below)
 - A Chromebook does not qualify as a laptop for the day-to-day needs of a Harker student.
 - Linux OS users are welcome, though Harker tech support will be somewhat limited.
 - A user account for the student that is an admin account. ***(Students need to be able to install software while at school, when a parent is not available.)***

Minimum Specifications (Hardware)

Windows laptop	Apple laptop
Intel Core i7 processor, integrated Intel chipset	Apple M4 chip
Windows 11 with all critical updates and security patches or better (no Windows Vista, Windows 2000 or Windows XP)	Mac OS 15 with all updates applied, or better (no Mac OS older than 15)
(Higher standards may be required for specific curricular software)	(Higher standards may be required for specific curricular software)

Both platforms:

256 GB SSD
16 GB RAM
802.11 b/g/n Wireless Network Connection
USB 2.0 (or greater) port or adapter Please bear in mind that newer-model devices that come with USB-C only will require an adapter (USB-C to USB 2 or 3).
Multi-port video adapter
Camera (webcam built-in, is standard on all Apple models)
Battery sufficient for 3+ hours and charger brought to school.

Recommended Specifications (Hardware)

If you are buying a high-end new computer, a four year warranty is recommended. Extended warranty coverage for accidental damage should also be considered. The specifications recommended here are for a laptop that is likely to serve a student well for four years. As long as the minimum standard noted above is met, this list should **NOT** be perceived as a requirement.

Windows laptop	Apple laptop
i7 Intel core processor Integrated Intel chipset	Apple M4 chip
Windows 11 with all critical updates and security patches or better	Mac OS 26 (Tahoe)

Both platforms:

512 GB (SSD preferred)
32 GB RAM
802.11 b/g/n Wireless Network Connection
USB 3.0 port or adapter Please bear in mind that newer-model devices that come with USB-C only will require an adapter (USB-C to USB 2 or 3).
HDMI or USB-C (may require adapter)
Camera (webcam built-in)
Bluetooth capable
Battery sufficient for 3+ hours and charger brought to school.

Software Specifications

Virus Scanner and Malware Scanner, Word Processor, and Web Browser are essential for all courses.

- Specific additional software may be required in some classes.
- All Google Drive tools and Microsoft Office tools are included with student accounts the school provides.

Category	Supported	Cost of supported	Alternate
Word Processor	MS Word and Google Docs	up to five copies of Office 365 per student free via download from login.microsoftonline.com (one copy required per device)	LibreOffice, OpenOffice, Pages, many others
Spreadsheet	MS Excel and Google Sheets	Included in Office 365	LibreOffice, OpenOffice, Numbers, many others
Presentation Package	PowerPoint and Google Slides	Included in Office 365	Canva, Keynote, others
Image Manager	GIMP	Free	Photoshop Elements, Photoshop, others
MultiMedia App	Microsoft Clipchamp (Windows) iMovie (Mac)	Free	FinalCut Pro, Premiere, Camtasia, others
Web Browser	Chrome or Firefox strongly Recommended Microsoft Edge (Windows) Safari (MacOS)	Free	<i>Please note: some applications will not work with Safari or Edge. Chrome or Firefox are your first two best options.</i>
Sound Recording & Playback	Audacity	Free	Many alternatives (GarageBand comes with Mac OS)
Virus Scanner	Microsoft Defender (Windows) ClamXav (Mac OS)	Free	Many alternatives

MalWare Scanner	Malwarebytes	Free	Windows Defender, Spybot Search & Destroy, many others
-----------------	--------------	------	--

Specific Courseware:

Course	Software	Cost	Source
Honors Pre-Calculus Calculus AP Calculus BC Honors Calc. C w/ MV Honors Linear Algebra Honors Multivariable Calc. Honors Diff. Equations Honors Adv. Topic in Math AP Physics C	Mathematica	No additional cost to families	Exclusively from Wolfram with Harker-provided account DO NOT PURCHASE ELSEWHERE
Physics (All) Chemistry (All) Biology (All)	Vernier Graphical Analysis Pro and Vernier Video Analysis	No additional cost to families	Students will receive instructions to download from publisher in Schoology courses.

Additional Requirements / Options / Considerations

Item	Required/Optional	Source
Padded Carrying Case <i>with nametag</i>	Required	Many
Headset with Boom Microphone	Required for all foreign language courses	Many
Extended Warranty	Recommended 4 years for high-end machines	Many
Accidental Damage / Theft Insurance	Recommended	Safeware and others
Anti-Theft Tracking Software	Highly recommended	LoJack for Laptops & others

Purchase Options

Windows OS users should strongly consider the packages offered by [Laptop Schools](http://www.laptopschools.com) <<http://www.laptopschools.com>>. The Lenovo ThinkPads come with warranties that cover accidental damage. A fourth year of warranty coverage is also available.

Mac OS Users can take advantage of the [Apple Education store](http://www.apple.com/edu/) at <http://www.apple.com/edu/>. After market insurance can also be purchased for the Apple products

Tech Support Available at Harker

The Harker School can only provide Level 1 Tech Help Desk support:

- Technicians are available for limited hours on campus to troubleshoot laptop issues.
- Students seeking Tech Support must initiate contact with the team by emailing TechHelpUS@harker.org with a detailed explanation of the issues they are having. This email address is not intended for use by teachers or parents.
- Troubleshooting is limited to connectivity (Internet), printing, and other school-related software issues.
- Families are responsible for fixes related to hardware and personally-owned software. **Employees of The Harker School cannot open any device that is not owned by the school.**
- 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

In the case that a student's laptop is not functioning or is already out for repair, the Help Desk is prepared to issue a temporary loaner laptop while their device is out for servicing.

Should a student need a device for the day, they can check out a Chromebook from the Library, but this type of device is limited in what it can do, compared to a laptop. A Chromebook borrowed from the Library must not leave campus, and it must be returned at the end of the school day. There is a maximum of three (3) consecutive days of borrowing a Chromebook, after which Library staff will refer the student to Tech Support.

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

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

Conditions for Loaner Laptops are as follows:

- Meet one or both of the above two criteria to be issued a loaner.
- The first 5 business days are free of charge.
 - Loaner laptops are provided free of charge for the first five days. Beginning on day six, a daily rental fee of \$5 applies for up to five days. After Day 10, the cost increases in tiers to encourage timely return. Total rental charges will not exceed \$250 within any 30-day period.
 - Days 1-5: Free
 - Days 6-10: \$5 per day, up to \$25
 - Days 11-15: \$10 per day, up to \$75 total accrued
 - Days 16-20: \$15 per day, up to a total \$150 accrued
 - Days 21-30: \$20 per day until the \$250 maximum is reached
- Loaner laptops are Macs running MacOS.
 - Loaners are available on a first-come-first-served basis and are not guaranteed to be available.