

Harker Laptop Specifications: Upper School Hardware for 2025-26

The minimum standards outlined below are absolutes. The recommended standard is our current best estimate of what will be necessary for a high end computer user for a four year machine. Alternative selections that exceed the minimum standard are welcome.

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 [Harker's Apple Education store](http://www.apple.com/edu/harker) at <http://www.apple.com/edu/harker>. After market insurance can also be purchased for the Apple products.

Linux OS users are welcome. There is no current suggested Linux package.

Hardware Minimum Standard:

| Windows laptop | Apple laptop |
|---|---|
| i5 quad-core processor Integrated Intel chipset 256GB SSD 8GB RAM | Minimum: Apple M2 chip 256GB SSD storage 8GB RAM |
| Windows 10 with all critical updates and security patches or better (no Windows Vista, Windows 2000 or Windows XP) | Mac OS 13 with all updates applied, or better (no Mac OS older than 13) |
| (Higher standards may be required for specific curricular software) | (Higher standards may be required for specific curricular software) |
| 802.11 b/g/n Wireless Network Connection | 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 to USB 2 or 3). | 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 to USB 2 or 3). |
| VGA out (or adapter to VGA or HDMI) | VGA or HDMI adapter |

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| Camera (webcam built-in) | Camera (all models come with built-in iSight camera) |
| Bluetooth capable | Bluetooth capable |
| Battery sufficient for 3+ hours and charger brought to school. | Battery sufficient for 3+ hours and charger brought to school. |

Hardware Recommended Standard:

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 |
|--|--|
| Intel Core i7 or better | Apple M3 chip |
| Windows 11 with all critical updates and security patches or better | Mac OS 15.3 |
| 16 GB RAM | 16 GB RAM |
| 512 GB HD (SSD preferred) | 512 GB HD (SSD preferred) |
| 802.11 a/b/g/n Wireless Network Connection | 802.11 a/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 to USB 2 or 3). | 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 to USB 2 or 3). |
| HDMI (may require adapter) | HDMI (requires student to provide adapter) |
| Camera (webcam built-in) | Camera (all models come with built-in iSight camera) |
| Bluetooth capable | Bluetooth capable |

Additional Requirements/Options/Considerations:

| Item | Source | Required/Optional |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Padded Carrying Case | Many | Required |
| Nametag on case | Many | Required |
| Headset with Boom Microphone | Many | Required for foreign language |
| DVD-R drive (likely external) | Many | Optional |
| Extended Warranty | Many | Recommend 4 years for high end machines |
| Accidental Damage / Theft Insurance | Safeware and others | Recommended |
| Anti-Theft Tracking Software | LoJack for Laptops & others | Highly recommended |