DIVISION SCOLAIRE
# LOUIS RIEL
SCHOOL DIVISION

# 21st Century Learning Initiative

# Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Buying Guide And Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

# 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 experience with technology in schools, we offer the following recommendations:

- Cost:

  - Purchasing a new laptop or tablet can range in price from $300 and up. However, a device in the $300 to $600 range will be suitable for this program.

- Portability of the device:

  - You will want the device to comfortably fit in your child's school backpack without weighing them down. On average a 15" laptop can weigh as much as 2.4 kgs (5.6 lbs.) or more.

- Battery life:

  - Choose a device with at least six hours of battery life, which should be enough for the school day.

- Keyboard:

  - A keyboard for taking notes, completing assignments and researching is strongly recommended.

  - Wireless Network Capabilities

  - The device must have Wi-Fi/wireless capabilities

  - Suitable CPU, memory and storage capabilities (students have 1 TB of storage in OneDrive when enrolled in LRSD).

  - Eight gigabits of memory, etc.

- Screen size & graphics:

  - Screens should be nine inches or bigger.

- Durability:

  - Is the device built to last with solid construction and parts?

- Latest version:

  - The newer the device, the less you will have to worry about compatibility and the next upgrade.

- Software:
  - Buying additional software packages is not required. All LRSD students are eligible for the Microsoft Student Advantage program. This program provides **Microsoft Office** to all students in the division free of charge for up to five computers (Mac or PC).  Students will be directed how to download and install the Office suite at the beginning of the school year.

- Previously Owned Equipment
  - If you decide to purchase a used device, please check to see that the battery life is sufficient.  It should last for 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 has been great back to school specials available from computer vendors.
2. Less use in advance of the start of the school year will result in a device with a battery at peak performance and capacity.

## What to Purchase

A new laptop or tablet can cost $300 or more, However, a device in the $300 to $600 range will be suffice for this program. While LRSD does not recommend any specific type of device, here are three main categories of devices that have received positive reviews.

| Laptops | Tablets | 2 in 1s |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
| <ul><li>Laptops are the best, most cost-effective choice for this program.</li><li>They come in three types:</li></ul><ol><li>Windows based devices</li><li>Apple computers</li></ol> | <ul><li>A touchscreen without a keyboard (you can connect one using Bluetooth)</li><li>May include a digital pen</li><li>They come in roughly two types:</li></ul><ol><li>iPads</li></ol> | <ul><li>A laptop that converts into a touchscreen tablet</li><li>Typically, more powerful and quicker than a tablet, but with a touch screen</li><li>May include a pen</li><li>More expensive</li><li>These are all Windows based devices</li></ul> |
| Costs<ul><li>Entry level: $300 (HP Stream Laptop)</li><li>Mid-level: $600+ (Asus ZenBook)</li><li>High level: $900+ (Mac Air)</li></ul> | Costs<ul><li>High level: $900+ (iPad)</li></ul> | Costs<ul><li>Entry level: $500 (Acer Switch 3)</li><li>Mid-level:  $800 (Acer Spin)</li><li>High Level:  $1000+ (Surface Go 2)</li></ul> |

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- *All Windows based laptops and tablets must be running* **Windows 10.** If you have a Windows laptop that is running Windows 7 or 8.1, LRSD students can download Windows 10 for free from our [web store](). Students must fill out the registration form first before they can sign in.
- 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 iPads.

**Devices NOT Compatible with the LRSD School Program**

The following devices will not work with the division's internal systems and are not recommended. Several factors, including limited screen size or screen resolution, the inability to connect and use LRSD online documents, assignments or software, are issues with the devices listed here:

- Devices with screens less than nine inches
- Any Chromebooks made in 2017 or earlier

**Purchasing Used Devices**

Used laptops/tablets are a great option for families to consider. Please consider the following:
- Used devices must meet the basic requirements and have batteries capable of at least four to six hours.
- Used devices must meet the minimum requirements detailed in the "General Information" paragraph on page one.

**Purchasing Software**

No additional software will be required. LRSD students are eligible to download Microsoft Office 365 for up to five personal devices. Learn how to download Microsoft Office here. Learn how to download Microsoft [Office here.]()

**Virus Protection**

If you purchase a Windows device, you do not need to buy an antivirus 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 (this is a free option).

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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

LRSD will provide a device for families that cannot afford to purchase one.  This loner 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.

**Will the students have open access to the internet?**

No, LRSD filters its internet feed, blocking approximately 25 categories of information on the  i nternet.  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.

**What if our device gets stolen?**

Theft of personal items can be a concern in a building with many people, such as a high school. Students  m u s t  take responsibility for safeguarding their personal property by not leaving any valuables unattended.

LRSD is not responsible for lost or stolen personal items, but has put in place several measures to help  secure student belongings:

- The school has provided student lockers in an area that are monitored by security cameras.
- LRSD will also register student devices purchased for the 21$^{st}$ Century Learning Initiative in the STOP Security Plate program STOP Security Plate [program](program) based on parental requests. This program helps deter the theft of devices and identify lost or stolen devices. Parents must notify the school if they wish to be registered.

- The school has also provided several charge lockers where students can securely store and charge devices overnight if they chose not to take the devices home.

**Do I need to have access to the internet at home?**

No, internet access at home, although beneficial, is not necessary for students working in this program.  At  school, the division provides free wireless access to the internet throughout the building.

**Will the students do all their work on their devices?**

We do not expect, nor do we encourage, all day use of student devices. Many classroom activities do not require the use of student devices.

**Do I need to buy a special laptop case?**

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.