21st Century Learning Initiative

BYOD, Device 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 and Windows tablets (When used with a keyboard). Chromebooks and Android tablets do not have software that is best optimized for our learning environment. **For this reason, LRSD does not recommend purchasing a Chromebook or Android tablet for this BYOD initiative.**

Important Factors to Consider

Based on our experiences with previous year's group of students, we offer the following general recommendations to consider.

- Cost: Purchasing a new laptop can start at prices of $300 and go as high as over $1000.   An expensive laptop is not required for this initiative. A device in the $300.00 to $600.00 range will be suitable for your child.

- Portability of the device: You will want the device to comfortably fit in their school backpack without weighing them down.   Laptops with screen sizes of 13 or 14 inches are preferred due to their size and weight. Tablets best suited have at least a 10-inch screen.

- Battery life: Choose a device with at least 6 hours of battery life, enough for the school day.

- Suitable CPU, memory, and storage capabilities.

	Minimum Specification	**Preferred Specification**
CPU	Intel Celeron N series or AMD Athlon series	Intel i3, or i5 / AMD Ryzen 3 or 5
Memory	4 Gb of RAM	8 Gb or higher
Hard Drive	64-128 Gb Hard Drive	128 Gb or higher

- Software: Buying additional software packages is not required. All Louis Riel School Division students are eligible for the Microsoft Student Advantage program. This program provides **Microsoft Office** to all students who attend Louis Riel School Division free of charge for up to 5 computers (Mac or PC). Students will be directed how to download and install the Office suite at the beginning of the school year.
- **Used devices** that meet the basic requirements will work providing they have batteries capable of at least 4 - 6 hours.

When to Purchase

Purchasing the device as close as possible to the start of the school year (July-August) is recommended because there of the back to school specials available from computer vendors and big box stores such as Costco and BestBuy.

What to Purchase

Purchasing a new laptop or tablet can range in price from $300.00 and up.   As mentioned above, a device in the $300.00 to $600.00 range will be enough for this program.   While LRSD doesn't recommend the purchasing of any specific type of device, below is a purchasing guide with examples of devices.

There are three main categories of devices to consider:

Laptops	Tablets	2 in 1s
• Laptops are the best, most cost-effective choice for this program. • **Chromebooks are not recommended and should not be purchased.**	• Tablets with screens larger than 10 inches are preferred. • Android tablets are not recommended due to software limitations. • Purchasing a keyboard with the tablet is strongly suggested.	• A laptop that converts into a touchscreen tablet • Typically, more powerful, and quicker than a tablet, but with a touch screen • May include a pen • More expensive
Recommended: 1. Windows based devices 2. Macs Costs: • Entry level: $300+ • Mid-level: $600+ • High level: $900+	Recommended: 1. iPads 2. Surface Tablets Costs: • **iPads** – Starts at $449 Keyboard – Starts at $219 ***Total – Starts at $668*** • **Surface Go 3** – Starts at $499 Keyboard – Starts at $129 ***Total – Starts at $628***	Recommended: 1. Windows 2-in-1 Laptops Costs: • Entry level: $400+ • Mid-level: $700+ • High Level: $1000+
Laptop Examples [Entry Level Example 1](#) [Entry Level Example 2](#) [Mid-Level Example](#) [High Level Example](#)	Tablet Examples [iPad](#) [Surface Go](#)	2-in-1 Examples [Entry Level Example](#) [Mid-Level Example](#) [High Level Example](#)

*All Windows based laptops and tablets must be running **Windows 10 or Windows 11.*** If you have a Windows laptop that has an operating system that is older than that, LRSD students can download Windows 11 for free from our web store. https://lrsd.onthehub.com Students must fill out the registration form first before they can sign in. Only laptops running Windows 10 or higher will be able to use our online systems in school.

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 all iOS devices.

Purchasing Used Devices

Used laptops/tablets are a great option for families to consider. Please consider the following:

- Used devices that meet the basic requirements will work providing they have batteries capable of at least 4-6 hours.
- Used devices must run Windows 10 to be able to access LRSD Wi-Fi and utilize other resources.

Purchasing Software

No additional software will be required beyond the device's operating system and an internet browser which all systems ship with. As stated before, all LRSD students are eligible to download Microsoft Office for up to 5 personal devices that they have for their school laptop or at home. https://www.lrsd.net/schools/DCI/News/Pages/Office-for-Students.aspx

Virus Protection

If you purchase a Windows device, you do not need to buy an Anti-Virus 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 (Free). You can find a link to download the software here https://www.microsoft.com/en-ca/download/details.aspx?id=5201

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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

A: LRSD will provide a device for families that cannot afford to purchase one. This loaner 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.

Q: Will the students have open access to the internet?

A: No, Louis Riel School Division filters its internet feed blocking around 25 categories of information on the Internet. 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.

Q: What if our device gets stolen?

A: Theft of personal items can be a concern in a building housing a great many people like a high school. Students need to take responsibility for safeguarding their personal property by not leaving any valuables unattended.

The School Division is not responsible for lost or stolen personal items but has put in place several measures to help secure student belongings.

- Louis Riel School Division will also register student devices purchased for the 21st Century Learning Initiative in the "**STOP Security Plate**" program http://www.computersecurity.com/stop/ based on parental requests. The Stop Security Plate Program helps to deter the theft of devices and help to identify lost or stolen devices. Parents must notify the school that they wish to be registered.

Q: Do I need to have access to the internet at home?

A: No, internet access at home, although beneficial, is not necessary for students working in this program. At school the Division will provide free wireless access to the Internet throughout the building.

Q: Will the students do all their work on their devices?

A: We do not expect, nor do we encourage the use of student devices 100% of the day as this is impractical from a technology perspective in terms of battery life and not applicable as many classroom activities do not lend themselves to technology infusion.

Q: Do I need to buy a special laptop case?

A: 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.