

Student Computing Device Specifications

PDS Upper School

2018 - 2019 School Year

Upper School students at Princeton Day School choose a preferred computing device to purchase for school. Students must have at least one of the devices below available for school work, and to bring to class when required by a teacher. New students must bring their primary devices to their new student orientation sessions.

Devices must meet the specifications below. Devices not meeting these specifications will not be supported, and may be prohibited from accessing the school network, printers and other PDS resources. Only Apple and Windows 10 operating systems meet these specifications, not Unix, Linux, Chrome OS, or others.

All devices must have Microsoft Office, including Word, Powerpoint and Excel. Students will be able to download and use Microsoft Office on their devices for no additional cost through our Microsoft agreement, however they will lose access immediately once they are no longer students at PDS. Other applications may be required for specific classes.

Apple MacBook

- Apple MacBook (2015 or newer), Macbook Pro (models first released in 2015 or later), or MacBook Air (2015 or newer). To determine your MacBook Pro model, please visit <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201300>. All MacBook, MacBook Pro and MacBook Air models currently being sold as new models by Apple meet PDS specifications.
- The Apple computer's operating system must still be supported by updates from Apple. These include the following: High Sierra (v10.13), Sierra (v10.12). All systems must have the latest updates.
- Minimum 4 GB RAM (8 GB highly recommended)
- Must include antivirus/antimalware software with auto-update enabled
- All security-related Apple updates must be installed

Windows PC Laptop

- Less than four years old
- Minimum 4 GB RAM (more RAM is highly recommended)
- Windows 10, with latest updates
- Microsoft Surface Pro, Surface Book, Surface Book Pro are acceptable options as Windows laptops (must run full Windows operating system)
- Must include antivirus/antimalware software with auto-update enabled
- All security-related Windows updates must be installed

iPad/iPad Pro

- 5th generation iPad or newer, iPad Air 2 or newer, and all iPad Pro models. More information on iPad models can be found here: <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201471>
- Minimum 32GB storage (64GB or more recommended)
- If the iPad will be your primary device, we strongly recommend acquiring an external keyboard.
- Note: While iPads are a permitted option, their functionality can be limiting. We find that most US students prefer laptops.

Only devices that meet the specifications above are acceptable as a primary device to be purchased.

Examples of devices that currently do not meet requirements include:

- iPad Mini
- Android phone or tablet
- Any model of Kindle, Nook, Fire, etc.
- iPhone
- iPod Touch
- 1st generation Microsoft Surface
- Computers running Linux as their primary operating system
- Chromebooks
- MacBooks produced before 2013 or MacBook Pros produced before 2012
- Any device running Windows XP, Windows 7, Windows Vista, Windows 8, Mac OS X El Capitan (v10.11), Mac OS X Yosemite (10.10), Mac OS X Mavericks (10.9) or other older, unsupported operating systems

Important Notes:

- For all systems, it is essential to backup all important files to Google Drive, iCloud, another cloud service, or an external drive. Because students have unlimited Google Drive storage space with their PDS accounts, we highly recommend they install the Google Backup & Sync utility to protect important files and folders. The school is not responsible for backing up student information or for lost files. PDS IT will not attempt to recover lost data from student-owned devices. Computer problems may not be an excuse for lost assignments.
- It is vital that all computers and other devices remain secure. Any device not updated with security related patches and current anti-malware/antivirus software may be immediately restricted from use on campus. Inability to perform school work in such cases will be entirely the responsibility of the student. To prevent problems, please consult PDS IT with any questions.
- PDS IT will provide instructions and assistance in connecting student-owned devices to the PDS network, PDS printers and other school resources. Devices that do not meet the specifications above will not be allowed on the network.
- PDS will perform basic troubleshooting to assist students with emergencies, but will not perform hardware repairs, software installations, or warranty work on student-owned systems. Students and parents are responsible to ensure that computing devices are maintained in working order. Please purchase any additional technical support or warranty that you deem necessary to keep your device performing well throughout its life.
- For existing PDS students, any device that meets the standards posted during their first year in the Upper School will be supported for them throughout their PDS career. This will be the case unless unmanageable security vulnerabilities force obsolescence of a device.
- Our coursework requires individual computing devices. It is not permitted for a student to not own a device, and simply borrow or use PDS computers. Owning a device that meets the specifications above is a requirement for every PDS student.
- Students are expected to bring their devices to school in the morning fully charged and ready to go. Charging stations are always available in different locations throughout the school, but it is the student's responsibility to have a working and fully-charged device during class time or when needed by their teachers. Students may also want to have a spare power adapter to keep at school.