

**Bring Your Own Laptop
Frequently Asked Questions
December 2015**

What is a Bring Your Own Laptop program?

A Bring Your Own Laptop program is an educational initiative where students bring a laptop with them to school each day to engage in their learning. Our particular laptop program will allow students to bring Chromebooks.

Do I need to do anything for my child in Preschool next year?

No. The technology is already in place and will be used to advance your child's educational experience.

Can my sixth and ninth grade child use a tablet?

No. There are functional reasons why we need all students on the same basic platform.

What is the difference between a laptop and a Chromebook?

A Chromebook is essentially a "thinned out" laptop. While a laptop has a large amount of storage, a Chromebook is designed to run the Google Chrome OS and store everything in the cloud. Here is [an article](#) with more information.

Will the laptops be serviced by the school?

Allen will offer support with smaller issues (internet connection, sound issues, logins, etc.). Any major issues will need to be handled through the warranty that comes with the device that was purchased or other vendors.

Can we use a laptop that we already have?

Yes. If your laptop is only a couple of years old then it will work fine. If it is older than that, you will want to check that it at least meets these minimum requirements:

Core i3 Processor or faster

Screen Size from 11" to 15"- not bigger

4GB RAM

Network Wireless Card B/G/N

Hard drive 250GB minimum

Recommended manufacturers: HP/Dell/Lenovo/Apple/Samsung/Sony/ASUS

Operating systems: Windows OS, Apple OS or Linux

Battery Life: 3+ hours- an extra charge battery is desirable- but optional

Headphones/earphones

Built-in or external microphone

Built-in or external camera

Will there be digital training for my child?

Yes. There will be training on Google Apps for Education provided in the beginning of the school year.

If I have a MS/US student and want to purchase a device, should I buy a laptop or a Chromebook?

In general, we are recommending Chromebooks as they are web/cloud based and that minimizes virus and software issues. If you are interested in knowing more about Chromebooks, these two articles might be helpful:

[PC Magazine's Ten Best Chromebooks of 2015](#)

[Tech Radar's Ten Best Chromebooks 2015](#)

Can I buy a laptop from the school?

Yes. Families will have the option of purchasing an [ASUS Chromebook C201](#) from Allen for \$297.69. This price does not include a case (but a case might not be needed if the child is going to be carrying it in their backpack). We are not guaranteeing this as the best price option, but rather offering it as a convenient and efficient way for families to get what is required for their child. If this option is taken, families will be billed through our Renweb accounting system.

Why has Allen chosen the ASUS C201 to recommend?

Research is clear that it is a dependable Chromebook that is fast and has a long battery charge. We have had multiple students (from the gamut of tech comfort) pilot it for a full day each and they have commented that it is light, fast and has a good battery life. We are recommending this as the best option for families who are looking to purchase something new for their child to use. Families are certainly welcome to buy a different Chromebook or laptop if it would suit their child's needs best.

Who should I contact at Allen if I want more information about this?

Head of MS/US- Mark Engstrom at mengstrom@allenacademy.org