

Bring Your Own Laptop Program Frequently Asked Questions

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.

Can my 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 Keyboarding and Digital Citizenship in the spring of this school year. They have already received the How to be a Google Power Searcher training.

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, this article might be helpful:

[PC Magazine's Best Chromebooks of 2017](#)

Can I buy a Chromebook from the school?

Yes. Families will have the option of purchasing a Chromebook from Allen. An order form is available if you would like this option. Please reach out to Mark Engstrom at

mengstrom@allenacademy.org if you would like to pursue this option.

Why has Allen chosen the Lenovo N22 to recommend?

(from a trusted review)

This rugged Chromebook is designed for everyday use in the classroom; it is built to take a hit. The N22 can withstand an accidental drop of, up to, 2.3 ft (just about the height of a student's desk). The N22 Chromebook has Lenovo's new "anti-peel keyboard" to stop students from taking off the keys and saving you the time it takes to replace them. Also, there are now draining channels in the new water-resistant keyboard. The screen is anti-glare to reduce eyestrain in fluorescently lit rooms. The N22 has a battery life of up to 10 hours, reducing the need to be tied to your power cord. The Lenovo N22 Chromebook is a valuable solution for any school.

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

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