

Bring Your Own Device... But what device should students bring?



In Gwinnett County Public Schools, more and more instructional activities can be enhanced when students bring their own personal devices (cell phones, tablets, laptops, etc.) to class. As you consider the value of this experience and the opportunity for your child to use a personal device at school, here are some things to know:

- **GCPS encourages students to take advantage of the school system’s BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) policy**, but participation is not required.
- Students should **bring devices that they are comfortable using**.
- With the variety of activities for which students might use a device in class, **no single device is likely to do it all**.
- **Some devices are better suited to certain instructional activities than others.** You may want to look at options and limitations based on what your child’s class is doing.
 - **A tablet** is a good choice for **elementary** students and is great for online research, viewing videos, taking notes using apps, and even taking photos and making videos if it has a camera.
 - **A Chromebook** is another option for **upper elementary and middle school** students. It allows students to more easily create documents compared to a tablet. Most of a Chromebook’s documents and apps exist in the cloud but it can be used without Internet access. For instance, students can use Google drive to produce papers and presentations, access Google and Chrome web apps, and more.
 - And many **middle and high school** students appreciate **a laptop** as it allows them to access software they use to complete assignments and use with other applications, as well as the Internet.

Looking for a laptop, Chromebook, or tablet for your student? Consider these features.

Features	Laptop	Chromebook	Tablet
Recommended for...	Any level, but preferred for middle or high schools	Any level, but preferred for upper elementary, middle, or high	Best for elementary, especially for lower grades
Screen Size	9” or higher	9” or higher	7” or higher
Memory/RAM	4GB or higher	2GB or higher	N/A
Storage	128GB minimum	16GB minimum (32GB optimal)	16GB minimum (32GB optimal)
Battery Life	7 hours or better	7 hours or better	7 hours or better
*Wireless	802.11 A/B/G/N or AC	802.11 A/B/G/N or AC	802.11 A/B/G/N or AC
Operating System	Windows 10 or higher Mac OS - OS X 10.12 High Sierra or higher	Chrome OS 67 or higher	iOS 11 or higher Android 8.1 or higher

***Wireless: N or AC is preferred**

