

Sarasota Christian School 2020-21

9th-12th Grade Bring Your Own Device Program

Device Specifications

REQUIRED Hardware Specifications

The device must meet all the following requirements:

Form Factor	Laptop, tablet device or hybrid device. A tablet device must have a physical keyboard attachment with separate keys for A-Z and 0-9 which physically move when depressed.
Physical Dimension	Minimum screen size: 9.7" Maximum screen size: 15.6"
Operating System	Windows 10 is required for all Windows Devices. Older versions such as Windows 7 and 8 are no longer supported by MS and are security risks. Apple Mac OS X 10.11 or newer Note: Even though Android and Apple devices (e.g. iPad) do not meet the requirements, should you already have one you may elect to try using it by adding a keyboard and software that is compatible with Microsoft Office products. As time passes, these products are becoming more compatible with listed specifications.
Wireless Capability	Our experience at SCS is that we have had no trouble with individual student wireless connectivity, especially for newer models. The other specifications have more of an impact on performance than wireless functionality.
Battery Life	Advertised battery life of six hours or more required; 10 hours or more recommended.

REQUIRED Software Specifications

Additionally, the device must meet all of the following functional requirements pertaining to software:

Web Browser	Windows and Mac computers must be able to run the current version of the preferred browsers (Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer, etc). Other secure web browsers may be downloaded and installed as needed.
Word Processor	Microsoft Word (preferred - <i>Windows or Mac versions</i>) or Google Docs (<i>cloud-based</i>). Note: Apple Pages, OpenOffice and LibreOffice are not acceptable, as files created by these programs do not work optimally with Google Docs.
Spreadsheet Package	Microsoft Excel (preferred - <i>Windows or Mac versions</i>) or Google Docs (<i>cloud-based</i>). Note: Apple Numbers, OpenOffice and LibreOffice are not acceptable, as files created by these programs do not work optimally with Google Docs.
Security Software	Windows devices must be running Windows Defender at minimum, or another reputable Antivirus Software such as Avast, McAfee, or Webroot. Mac OS X laptops should run: Avast Antivirus (free version at minimum; pro recommended)

OPTIONAL Hardware Specifications

The following are not requirements of the Bring Your Own Device program, but are suggested for your consideration.

Recommendations	Maximum weight: 4.4 lbs; 3.5 lbs or less recommended. Minimum RAM (laptops): 4 GB required; 8 GB or more recommended. Disk configuration (laptops): Solid State Disk (SSD) recommended. Minimum storage capacity of 128 Gb required, 256 Gb recommended.
Considerations	Accidental loss and breakage insurance

Sarasota Christian School
Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Program
FAQ's

1. What is BYOD?

Bring Your Own Device is a program which allows students to use their own technology at specified times during the day to enhance the learning experience.

2. What device does your child need for school?

A BYOD Device Specifications & Suggested Devices document has been prepared for you. The technical specifications listed are designed to meet our existing curriculum needs, as well as those that we have been able to anticipate.

3. May we use the computer we already have, even if it doesn't meet all the specifications?

Many existing laptops will work in most cases at school; however, some features of web-based curriculum will not work for some devices. For example, tablets that do not have a mouse will not work with an online vocabulary program since you cannot "hover" with your finger like you can with a mouse.

You may try to use your existing device; however, if it doesn't meet the needs of one of the class curriculums, you will need to be prepared to make a purchase of a compliant device. The basic needs that are non-negotiable are the devices battery life, the speed that it operates and the ability to connect wirelessly. Students will not be able to charge their devices during class. If your device works slowly, it will be difficult to keep up with the lessons. Finally, devices will only be permitted to connect to the network wirelessly; therefore they must have this capability.

4. What will happen if my device is near losing its battery power?

You will need to take your device to a charging station (not located in class) and/or replace your battery with your own personal backup spare battery. A student not having a working device is considered not being prepared for class.

5. Where should I keep my device?

When not using your device, you should keep it in your backpack. During class time, you will keep your backpack in your classroom. During chapel, lunch, physical education, after school practice and games (i.e. sports and drama), arrangements will be available for storing your backpack.

6. How will I keep my files safe?

You should keep your files in your Google Apps for Education Drive folder. Your Google Drive folder in the "cloud" can be continuously synchronized with a Google folder on your device. You may then access any of your files on Google Drive from any device connected to the Internet. Google Apps instruction will be provided to students.

7. Will I be able to print at school?

In order to be more ecologically responsible, SCS is moving towards using less paper. Feedback on student papers can be provided more effectively by digital means. Online digital assessments provide rapid response feedback to students. Teachers are now able to work with students more effectively using digital tools. When printing is required, students should print from home.

8. Are there any policies that provide guidance for how children should use the Internet?

Refer to the SCS Parent/Student Handbook Acceptable Use Policy for guidelines regarding appropriate Internet usage. You can also visit the CIPA (Children’s Internet Protection Act) website for details on how to ensure we keep our children safe: <http://www.fcc.gov/guides/childrens-internet-protection-act>

9. Why am I filtered on my own device?

SCS is Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) compliant, which requires all network access to be filtered regardless of the device you use to access it while in school. The network you are using while at school belongs to SCS and will be filtered. For more CIPA information, see: <http://www.fcc.gov/guides/childrens-internet-protection-act>

10. Will there be a permission form that needs to be signed before a student brings their own device to school?

By signing the Parent/Student Commitment Form at the end of the Parent/Student Handbook, you will have agreed to the terms of the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP).

11. How will students be using devices as part of their academic work at school and home?

Your child’s teacher will be letting you know how they plan to integrate the utilization of devices into their teaching and learning environment in the classroom.

12. I brought my device to school and my teacher will not allow me to use it. What do I do?

The teacher has the final say on classroom procedures. If your teacher asks you not to use your device, you should follow their instructions. Although access is available, it is not guaranteed for every classroom situation.

13. I have a data plan from a provider (AT&T, Sprint, Verizon etc.) on my digital device that allows internet access without using the SCS student access. Is this allowable?

Yes. Students may use their data plan provider, although there really isn’t a need to do so since the school provides wireless access. However, they are still expected to follow the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) when accessing the Internet through any device on campus.

14. Am I still held accountable for the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) I accepted at the beginning of the school year even though this is my own personal computer?

Yes. The Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) for SCS remains in effect even when you are using your own computing device. Violating the terms of the AUP would be a Parent/Student Handbook policy violation.

15. How will theft, loss, or damage of a personally owned device be handled in a school?

It is the student’s responsibility to take care of their device. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices. However, we will always try to help students locate a missing device.

16. My personal device does not give me a prompt to choose a wireless network, what should I do?

Check the settings menu of your device to see if there is a network access icon. Select this icon and choose the designated network from the list. Be sure to consult the owner’s manual of your device to get exact directions for accessing wireless networks.

17. What is the range of the network?

You should be able to reach the wireless network seamlessly in the vicinity of all the buildings on campus. Connectivity is not expected to be available at the ball fields unless special arrangements are made.

18. Will there be technical assistance provided to access the wireless network?

Students will be expected to know how to connect their devices to the wireless network. Should wireless connectivity problems occur, students should direct their questions to a teacher, and the teacher will provide direction and secure support help.

19. Once connected to the wireless network, will there be technical assistance provided for non-network related problems?

One of the benefits of the BYOD program is that our students will become better technical problem solvers. The skill students will need to learn is “how to ask good questions” through Google or other search engines. Questions that come to mind in layman terms will probably get an answer you are looking for.

20. If my device won't work, will someone from the school fix the device?

It is not the responsibility of the SCS staff to fix/repair/troubleshoot individual devices. Check the owner's manual for issues that could arise or take the device to a computer repair shop.

21. Will students be able to record teachers or classmates (audio or video)?

With the permission of the teacher or administrator, students can make recordings.

22. How will teachers prevent students from just texting their friends or just surfing the Web?

Students will be instructed to put devices away when they are not completing a specific instructional task. Teachers will always be mindful of what students are doing during class.

23. Will students be more distracted by having their own devices in the classroom?

It is still the teacher's discretion as to when students can use their devices in the classroom. If distraction becomes an issue, teachers handle it as they would handle any other type of distraction in accordance with the Parent/Student Handbook.

24. Will student performance improve because of BYOD?

It can be difficult to prove causality in a complex system such as education since there are many factors that affect student performance. The benefits of a BYOD and other eLearning initiatives:

- Students have access to their course materials and instruction anywhere and anytime.
- Teachers gain efficiencies, which allows them to provide more (and valuable) feedback to students.
- Students gain valuable real world experiences that will help them perform well in the 21st century.

Taken as a whole, we expect BYOD and eLearning will have a positive effect on student performance.