



## 2017-2018 TECHNOLOGY FAQ

### GENERAL

#### Purpose

Our students' lives today are filled with media that gives them mobile access to information and resources 24/7. We want students at Des Moines Christian School to be active contributors in our connected world. Our goal is to teach them to navigate the digital world in a safe, legal, responsible, and respectful manner. We see great potential for its use in the learning process as we seek to meet our mission of equipping minds and nurturing hearts to impact the world for Christ.

At Des Moines Christian School, technology will be used for educational purposes. Technology will be used to facilitate creativity and innovations; support communication and collaboration; extend research and promote critical thinking. We want our students to raise awareness, start conversations, find solutions to their questions, make a difference, take action, and create change in the world around them.

Why are we pursuing a 1:1 technology plan?

- Equip students to use technology to serve in God's world.
- Train discernment and ethical use of technology.
- Prepare for 21st century learning and work.
- Respond to learning needs of students at all skill levels by opening up a world full of math, language, history, science, and reading resources.
- Capitalize on current digital learning tools
- Facilitate "anytime, anywhere learning."
- Create and deliver custom content that encourages the independent thinking and synthesis skills needed for lifelong learning.
- Increase student engagement by capitalizing on most students' natural affinity for using and benefiting from technology.
- Create more opportunities for students to communicate, create, collaborate, and think critically.

### DEVICES AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS

#### Early Education

Students in Early Education will have access to iPads used for centers and student assessments.

#### Elementary

- Students in Grades K-2 will have an iPad cart available for each grade level.
- Students in Grades 3-4 will have a cart of Chromebooks for each classroom.
- Students in Grade 5 will have a cart of MacBooks for each class.

#### Middle School

Students in Grade 6 will have MacBooks available to use in their classroom. As we prepare them for 7th grade, students may be able to take them home beginning 2nd semester. Grades 7-8 will be 1:1 and provided the option to *either* lease a school device (11" MacBook Air) *or* bring their own device that follows certain specifications outlined in the next section.

#### High School

Students in Grades 9-12 will be 1:1 and provided the option to *either* lease a school device (11" MacBook Air) *or* bring their own device that follows certain specifications outlined in the next section.

### BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE OPTION FOR GRADES 7-12

#### Definition

BYOD stands for Bring Your Own Device. To fully allow teachers to integrate technology into their classroom, it is important that student personal computing devices meet the **minimum device** requirements for the device to be functional as an aid to learning.

## **Recommended Devices**

Families may choose from the range of devices listed below:

- Laptop: Price ranges from \$250-\$500. These devices come in a variety of models and manufacturers. Please look for the following features when considering a Chromebook:
  - 4GB or more of Ram Memory
  - Front facing camera
  - The device is as sturdy as possible
- MacBook Air: Price ranges from \$750-\$1200. They are lightweight and easy to transport, yet durable; able to run more applications and downloadable content that some laptops such as Chromebooks won't be able to do; more ability for to run creative content such as photo editing and video editing but more geared towards online content and running basic programs.
- MacBook Pro: Price ranges from \$1299-\$2000. Benefits include: best future proof specifications; best performance for editing photo and video, design applications, artistic applications; and bigger screen size.

## **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

**What will students in Grades 7-12 be doing on the laptops? For example, will they ever have a need to install applications on their laptop or is everything web-based?**

- Students will do a variety of activities with their devices. Most assignments, projects, and classwork will be done with web based applications that any device could do. However, some classes will have specific apps or programs that the students will need to complete the course. Classes such as: Art classes that might include graphic design or anatomy classes that need a program to show the parts of the human body would be examples of classes with above and beyond needs that a Chromebook or iPad may not work well for. Our advice is to use the school issued computers which will run all the applications until you feel that you want to purchase your own device when you get into 11th and 12th grade with more course options.

**What restrictions will be placed on school issued laptops? Will school issued laptops have any type of device management software installed on them, i.e. any monitoring software? Or will students be local admins on the laptops?**

- Yes, all schools have restrictions placed on the computers. To get all the technical details, contact our IT Manager, [Jeremy Mead](#). Students will not be local admins for the school issued device. If students need an app for the school issued device, it will be available through an internal means.

**If there is an issue with a school leased laptop, who does the student go to? What is the service level agreement on the laptops? Is there 24 x 7 support?**

- Students will begin to network with one another. Recognizing some needs are beyond our peers, we are establishing a student help desk supported by our IT Manager and Tech Coach as well as staff who are members of the Tech Team. In addition, the school leased devices will have access to Apple Care, which is available until 8:00 pm each evening.

## **TECHNOLOGY FEES**

The cost of this technology is included in Tuition for Early Education students and grades K through 6 (no Technology Fee assessed). Students in grades 7 through 12 will be assessed a Technology Fee according to the following schedule:

- Grades 7-8 who choose to lease a school device = \$200
- Grades 9-12 who choose to lease a school device = \$250
- Grades 7-12 who choose to bring their own device = \$0

The Technology Fee for students who lease a school device will be auto withdrawn as part of the normal DMCS billing cycle on July 31st, or it may be paid at the time of enrollment (for students enrolling after the school year has already begun).