



# BYOD Minimum Specifications

## Laptop Purchasing Advice

Mountain Creek State High School recommends that all laptops used by students meet the minimum specifications below to enable suitability for curriculum-based activities. The minimum specifications provided reflect the requirements for connection to the school's Wi-Fi network (BYOxLink). School ICT technicians will make every effort to enable connectivity of devices which meet these minimum specifications, assuming there are no technical or other issues outside of their control.

- ✓ Student subject choices and interests should be considered when deciding whether to purchase a device in the Minimum, Medium or High categories below.
- ✓ We recommend all new laptop purchases are 2-in-1 devices which include features of both tablet and laptops. Increasingly such devices will be needed as we move towards paperless delivery of content and assessment. A sample of these devices are listed in the purchasing portal(s) linked at the end of this document and all retail stores will stock their versions.

### Important Notes:

- Students will need **Administrator** access to the device for the initial on-boarding (connecting). They will also need any software that has been installed to limit their access turned off / removed for the connection to be successful. Once the initial on-boarding is complete, restrictions can be reactivated without the student losing network access.
- \* **Year 7-12 Design/Technology/Engineering** subjects listed below, **require Windows devices ONLY** to run Autodesk Education software and minimum **16GB RAM**.

### 1. What level of device does my child need for their subjects?

Years 7 to 9 – Recommended Device By Subject		
Minimum	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All Other Junior Subjects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Year 9 Media Arts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Year 7-9 Design &amp; Technology*</li> <li>▪ Year 7-9 Engineering Principles*</li> </ul>
Years 10 to 12 – Recommended Device By Subject		
Minimum	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All Other Senior Subjects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Year 10 Digital Technologies – Robotics and Immersive Reality</li> <li>▪ Year 10 Visual Art</li> <li>▪ Year 11-12 Information &amp; Communication Technology</li> <li>▪ Year 11-12 Certificate 3 in Information Technology</li> <li>▪ Year 11-12 Health</li> <li>▪ Year 11-12 Physical Education</li> <li>▪ Year 11-12 English</li> <li>▪ Year 11-12 Essential English</li> <li>▪ Year 11-12 Music</li> <li>▪ Year 11-12 Music in Practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All International Baccalaureate Students</li> <li>▪ Year 10 Design &amp; Technology*</li> <li>▪ Year 10 Engineering Principals*</li> <li>▪ Year 10-12 Film, TV &amp; New Media</li> <li>▪ Year 11-12 Design (General)*</li> <li>▪ Year 11-12 Engineering (General)*</li> <li>▪ Year 11-12 Cert II in Furniture Making*</li> <li>▪ Year 11-12 Cert II in Engineering Pathways*</li> <li>▪ Year 11-12 Visual Art</li> <li>▪ Year 11-12 Visual Arts in Practice</li> </ul>

## 2. What specification do Minimum, Medium and High refer to?

Years 7 to 12 – BYOD Specifications – Windows and Mac Devices			
	Minimum	Medium	High
<b>Operating System</b>	Windows 10/11, Mac OS X 15 (Sequoia) minimum, latest OSX is best	Windows 10/11, Mac OS X 15 (Sequoia) minimum, latest OSX is best	Windows 10/11, Mac OS X 15 (Sequoia) minimum, latest OSX is best
<b>Processor*</b>	Intel Pentium (Quad Core) – Core i3 \ AMD A6 – Ryzen 3 \ Apple M1+ or equivalent	Intel Core i5 \ Ryzen 5 \ Apple M2+ or equivalent	Intel Core i5 – i9 \ Ryzen 5 – 9 \ Apple M2 – M3 or equivalent
<b>CPU Speed*</b>	2.0Ghz or higher	2.5Ghz or higher	3.0Ghz or higher
<b>Memory</b>	8GB or more	8GB or more	<b>16GB or more</b>
<b>Storage Capacity</b>	<b>120GB SSD or higher</b>	<b>240GB SSD or higher</b>	<b>240GB SSD or higher (500GB recommended)</b>
<b>Screen Size</b>	11” – 14” display	12” display or higher	13” display or higher – FHD
<b>Graphics</b>	256MB minimum	1GB minimum	2GB minimum
<b>Antivirus</b>	Antivirus software <b>MUST</b> be installed on student laptops and regular updates are required. <b>Important Note:</b> <i>Windows 10/11 comes with an in-built antivirus (Microsoft Defender) so there is no need to purchase additional antivirus software. Mac systems <b>DO NOT</b> come with an in-built antivirus however, antivirus programs are available for Macs (ask the supplier for assistance).</i>		
<b>Wireless Connectivity</b>	<b>802.11ac Wi-Fi (support of 5GHz wireless range is essential)</b>		
<b>Protection / Accidental Damage Plan</b>	Device protection plans (both warranty and accidental damage) are strongly recommended with all laptops and should be discussed at time of purchase.		
<b>Important Note:</b>	<i>When purchasing a device, we encourage families to consider future laptop needs. Generally, as students move from Junior to Senior grades, their laptop specs will become higher depending on the subjects they intend to study.</i>		

\* Due to the ever changing and progressive nature of technologies, Mountain Creek State High School cannot guarantee that component level specifications for Processor Type and CPU Speeds will be accurate at the time of BYO device purchase. Please ensure that you utilize this document when purchasing a BYO device and provide a copy to your chosen computer supplier to make certain that you are getting a suitable product for your students use. Please consult MCSHS IT Support if you have any questions or concerns relating to this document. MCSHS cannot tell you what to buy or who to buy from, however we can offer general advice to parents.

## Other Accessories and Recommendations

Hardware	Software
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Protective Case / Cover / Bag</li><li>▪ Headphones</li><li>▪ USB Thumb Drive</li></ul>	Software available through the school at no cost: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <a href="#">Microsoft Office 365 Suite (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, etc.)</a></li><li>▪ <a href="#">Adobe Creative Cloud Suite</a></li><li>▪ <a href="#">Microsoft Windows 10 Education – Student License</a></li><li>▪ <a href="#">Microsoft Teams</a></li><li>▪ <a href="#">Vivi</a></li></ul>

## Not Accepted at School

- **iPads and other tablets are not suitable** as they do not meet the minimum specifications above.
- **Chromebooks, Microsoft Surface X and ARM based processor (including Snapdragon/CoPilot+ PC) technology are not supported** on the Mountain Creek SHS network as they are currently incompatible with the network.
- **Surface RT, Google ChromeOS, Android and Windows 10 S are not supported Operating Systems** and will not connect to the school network. Windows 10 S can be upgraded at home for free, please visit this link and register using the students school account - [Windows 10 Education](#)
- **Norton Family, AVG, Avast and TotalAV products are NOT compatible** and interfere with internet connectivity on the school network. **Please don't install or subscribe to these services.**

## Purchasing Your BYO Device

- Parents can purchase from their preferred computer supplier. All warranty and service issues will be the parents' responsibility. Mountain Creek SHS is not involved in these arrangements.
- Parents can purchase through one of our BYOD Vendor Portals. HP, Lenovo and JB Hi-Fi Education have provided portals for online purchasing, which include the following benefits:
  - *Warranty and device protection insurance*
  - *Education specific products (not available in retail stores)*
  - *Enhanced performance and connectivity*
  - *A wide range of accessories*
  - *Discounted prices*
  - *Robust devices*
  - *Finance options*
  - *Extended battery life*
- **MCSHS strongly recommends** students always keep their laptops in their cases to provide maximum protection to the device. It should be noted that the laptops remain the property of the student and their family, and the school will bear no liability for any damage to the laptop, deliberate or otherwise, that may occur. With this in mind, **we also strongly recommend that families confirm that their child's BYOD laptop is covered under their Contents insurance and/or Accidental Damage insurance.** Should damage occur, the school is not able to require any party to make good on damage regardless of the circumstances, nor are we able to provide the contact details of the families of the students involved.

## Vendor Portals

To purchase via one of the vendor portals, please click on the vendor of your choice (note, order is not indicative of preferred supplier status):

- **HP**
  - <http://www.hp.com.au/byod>
  - Please use this access key to enter the Mountain Creek SHS BYOD portal:  
School code: MountainC
  
- **Lenovo**
  - <https://mcsht.technologyportal.com.au/>
  - Please use the above link to enter the Mountain Creek SHS BYOD portal. No Access Key required.
  
- **JB HiFi Education**
  - <https://byod.jbhifi.education/>
  - Please use this access key to enter the Mountain Creek SHS portal:  
Access Key - MCSHSBYOD2025
  
- **Important Note:** *Although Mountain Creek State High School has provided links to BYOD Vendors in this document and on the school website, the school does not instruct parents where to buy devices. The links are available as a purchasing option for parents, offering the reassurance of only approved BYOD devices that meet the learning and technology requirements of our school. If you have any general questions or require further assistance, please contact **MCSHS IT Support:***
  - **Email - [byod@mountaincreekshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:byod@mountaincreekshs.eq.edu.au)**
  - **Phone - (07) 5457 8333**



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