

Solebury School

Individual Device Policy

Solebury School uses instructional technology as one way of enhancing our mission to teach the skills, knowledge and behaviors students will need as responsible citizens in the global community. Students learn collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking in a variety of ways throughout the school day. In an effort to increase access to those 21st Century skills, all students are required to bring either a laptop or a tablet for use in classes, the brand and specs of which are up to the student and student's family (technical requirements and recommendations below). The Solebury School faculty recognizes that individual students will differ as to their preferences for devices and how they study, write, and create. Furthermore, we anticipate that any specific brand or operating system will continue to become less important as more and more curricular materials and tools for collaboration and creation become Web-based and compatible across device platforms. While useful tools in their own right, cell phones are not seen as acceptable devices in terms of meeting the productivity needs in Solebury classes.

Teachers and courses will differ as to the nature and degree of portable device usage, but some in-class activities that are commonly required by teachers include writing, Internet research, watching videos, accessing an eBook, downloading materials, and other web-based tasks. No specific software is required, but students generally will need a way of writing papers, using spreadsheets, and making presentations, either with the free web-based suite of tools such as Google Drive given to them through the school or with a separate software package such as MS Office, LibreOffice or a suite of apps that comes with a device (such as Mac's productivity apps). Solebury School's wireless network is available inside all classroom buildings, athletic center, dorms, dining areas, library and some outside areas.

Minimum Technical Requirements

- Should be able to run Google Chrome
- Should be able to run Google Drive, Docs etc. either via a browser or apps
- Should be able to connect to the school wireless network
- Windows devices should have a current and up-to-date anti-virus software installed and running
- Should have a healthy battery that can last through the school day
- Should have a physical keyboard, either built-in or connected via Bluetooth
- Optional, but strongly recommended
 - An extended warranty for your device
 - A protective case. If planning to use a tablet make sure it protects the corners.
 - Activation of the device locator, such as Find my Mac, Find my Device to more readily locate a missing device.

Recommended devices

Chromebook: Prefer 4GB RAM, USB ports available

Microsoft Windows 10 Laptop or Tablet: CPU Intel core i5 or above (or AMD equivalent); 8GB RAM is recommended. Minimum of 128GB of SSD storage.

Apple laptop: 8GB RAM is recommended. Minimum of 128GB of SSD storage. Needs to run Mac OS 10.10 (Yosemite) or above.

Apple iPad: While newer iPads may meet the technical requirements for use in classes, it is important for students to be able to use an external keyboard. If such a keyboard is available, an iPad may meet the students needs for a personal device.