

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

Technology is a tool in the day-to-day learning of contemporary students. Different teachers in different classes will use technology in different ways. Students don't learn in a paperless or wholly online environment. They use technology in classes to support the best possible approaches to rigorous teaching and learning.

What is BYOD?

BYOD stands for Bring Your Own Device (suitable device for school use). It is a scheme designed to allow select year levels at Pioneer State High School to have access to digital learning on their own device rather than the school desk tops.

What are the minimum requirements for a computer?

Machine Type:	Laptop - Windows (No Mac, Chromebook or iPad)
Screen Size:	Between 10" & 16"
Processor:	Intel Core i3 or higher - Intel Core i5 or higher for technical subjects or equivalent
RAM:	8GB recommended (Technical Subjects 16GB or Higher)
Hard Drive:	256GB minimum, preferable SSD
Operating System:	Windows: Windows 10 or Windows 11 (Not Windows S Mode)
Wireless:	5 GHz, 802.11n or higher
Ports:	1 x USB port minimum, audio in/out, in-built microphone, camera
Battery Life:	6+ hours (6+ cell or higher)

iPad, Chromebook or Android devices will not be accepted as BYOD devices as they are in some ways incompatible and are not supported on the Pioneer SHS network.

Necessary Software

- Microsoft Office 365 supplied free of charge (including licensing for up to five devices), accessible from the school website.
- Windows 10 and 11 comes with "Windows Defender" virus and threat protection built in, and meets the requirements for connecting to the school network.

Can I buy any laptop for my child?

Yes, provided it meets the minimum requirements as detailed above. However, we recommend that you **do not** purchase a MacBook, as these devices have had issues connecting to our school network printers and drives.

Caring for the Device?

Parents are encouraged to purchase a protective case and students are encouraged to use this case for all transportation of the device during the school day. Please factor in the size of a laptop case when purchasing a school bag.

PSHS takes no responsibility for theft, loss, breakages, vandalism or unauthorized access to BYOD laptops. While every effort will be made to investigate instances of theft or malicious damage of BYOD laptops, parents may still be responsible for acquiring the costs to repair or replace the relevant device. **Onsite Warranty (Next Business Day (NBD) and Accidental Damage Protection Insurance is STRONGLY recommended.**



Does my child still have to have a textbook list?

The school has developed quality electronic resources and students are provided with access to digital and interactive textbooks. However, students will still have textbooks in some subjects where digital texts are unavailable. Some publishers have yet to offer their books in an electronic version and it is important to give access to the best resources to support student learning.

Do students still have to buy traditional stationery to use in class?

Having a device in class will not make PSHS a paperless school. Many aspects of learning will best occur through students experimenting with a pen and paper, or manipulating things in a traditional way for many years to come. When the best way to engage with ideas or concepts is through technology, teachers will use it.

What do I need to do as a parent/carer?

Plan to purchase a device suitable for school needs. The cost will depend on the device selected. Many outlets will offer payment plans.

What if I cannot afford to buy a laptop?

- Students can apply for an equity laptop device. The Student Resource Scheme must be up to date (or on a payment plan)
- Many outlets will offer payments plans for example Afterpay @ OfficeWorks and JB HiFi
- An opportunity exists with a company called "Computer Alliance" which offers 3 models of computers with warranty, accidental damage, mouse, hard case and headphones. They offer this through Zip Money which is 3 months interest free, and an option for longer payment plans with interest.

Please contact the office if you want any information about these payment options.

What if my student laptop requires repairs?

A limited number of loan laptops are available for students with laptops under repair. Parents/carers need to write a note of explanation which is presented to the school. These devices are available for a maximum period of 2 weeks and can be extended if available.

