

What your device needs to handle

What you need to ask for

Different school subjects

In a typical day a student might type an English assignment, jot down history notes, figure out maths equations, video a science experiment and record a speech. They need a device that lets them work effectively in every subject area

10" (minimum) screen, touchscreen and keyboard

- A minimum of a 10" screen — larger for creative or technical work
- A touchscreen for browsing and writing class notes
- A keyboard for typing assignments

Creativity, innovation and composition

Students need to be able to create, construct knowledge and collaborative on their devices. This means they should be able to install apps and or full software applications

Runs both apps and programs

- Able to run programs such as Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop or AutoCad
- Able to install apps as needed during school time

Working from different places

Students need to connect to the school wireless network and home internet

Dual Band Wi-Fi Access

- Make sure it has 2.4Ghz or 5Ghz dual band wireless to access the school network

The school backpack

Keep it light on their back

Lightweight

- Aim for under 1.5Kg

6-hour days

No one wants to run out of battery half-way through the school day

6-hour battery life minimum

- Make sure it lasts a 6-hour school day
- Look for a modern processor to help stretch battery life further

File swapping

You can email small files, but not video projects and large images. Plus student need to be able to connect their device to printers, sensors, probes, thermometers and more for science

USB ports

- Needed to connect digital peripherals, such as a microscope, a printer, graphics tablet, a musical keyboard, thermometer, light meter, etc

Lots of different software

Make sure the device can run demanding programs for music, design, science and technology classes

High performance

- Look for, Intel Core™ i3, Core™ i5 and Core™ i7 in Windows machines and Apple products that are within the last two versions

Note-taking and brainstorming

Students may prefer to making notes, sketch, write maths equations, science formulae and foreign languages with a pen

Pen

- High fidelity digitised pen with active screen assists with note-taking, sketching, writing maths and science equations - this is a great feature but considerably more expensive so is desirable but not necessarily recommended

Rough and tumble

Your child will probably drop the device and may spill things on it, so it needs to be tough and protected

Durable for everyday school use

- Purchase a protective case
- Look for solid state drives

Lots of files, videos, music and more

Students need plenty of room for applications and their own files

Storage

- At least 128GB of storage in laptops, ultrabooks and two-in-ones
- At least 32GB of storage in tablets is recommended