

Bring Your Own Device... But what device should students bring?



In Gwinnett County Public Schools, more and more instructional activities can be enhanced when students bring their own personal devices (cell phones, tablets, laptops, etc.) to class. As you consider the value of this experience and the opportunity for your child to use a personal device at school, here are some things to know:

- **GCPS encourages students to take advantage of the school system's BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) policy**, but participation is not required.
- Students should **bring devices that they are comfortable using**.
- With the variety of activities for which students might use a device in class, **no single device is likely to do it all**.
- **Some devices are better suited to various instructional activities than others**. You may want to look at options and limitations based on what your child's class is doing.
 - **A tablet** is a good choice for **elementary** students and is great for online research, viewing videos, taking notes using apps, and even taking photos and making videos if it has a camera.
 - **A Chromebook** could be a good option for **upper elementary and middle school** students. It is designed to be used with an Internet connection. Most of Chromebook's documents and apps exist in the cloud. For instance, students can use Google drive to produce papers and presentations, access Google and Chrome web apps, and more.
 - And many **middle and high school** students appreciate **a laptop** as it allows them to access software they use to complete assignments, as well as the Internet and other applications.

Looking for a laptop, Chromebook, or tablet for your student? Consider these features.

Features	Laptop	Chromebook	Tablet
Recommended for...	Any level, but preferred for middle or high school	Any level, but preferred for upper elementary, middle, or high	Best for elementary, especially lower grades
Screen Size	9" or higher	9" or higher	7" or higher
Memory	4GB or higher	4GB or higher	16GB minimum (32GB optimal)
Battery Life	7 hours or better	7 hours or better	7 hours or better
*Wireless	802.11 A/B/G/N or AC	802.11 A/B/G/N or AC	802.11 A/B/G/N or AC
Operating System	Windows 7 or higher Mac OS - OS X 10.8 or higher	Chrome OS 7077.x	iOS 7 or higher Android 4.1 or higher

