

Upper School laptop recommendations

Mount Madonna School

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Here is some additional information for families regarding our student laptop requirement for Upper School students from the Director of Technology, Dr. Nicole Tervalon.

Any devices that meet the below criteria or better will definitely work. With careful consideration you should be able to purchase a laptop that will last through all of MS and HS. That said, my experience is that Chromebooks don't tend to make it that long and their chipsets stop being upgraded after 5 years. So in general, you might want to budget on a machine that will last for 3-4 years, assuming it is well cared for.

Chromebooks generally are a reasonable and economical choice. I wouldn't choose anything with a screen less than 14", but whether it's a touchscreen or not is a personal preference. I tend to avoid them as they are one more thing that can break or not work correctly.

Windows 11 laptops are also a reasonable choice. Note that all devices that arrive in S mode will have to have that turned off before they can be used at school.

Apple products are all good choices, they are just more costly. They have a tendency to last a little longer than some other products, but how carefully your child cares for the device in their backpack and when at school and in transit should play a part in decision.

Tablets are functional for those that like them, although they can present some challenges when students have to type unless they come with a reasonable keyboard and have a reasonably-sized screen to work on. They can present some challenges if teachers ask students to engage with any kind of software that is not browser-based, though. And some software, like our typing software, doesn't run well on browsers other than Chrome, so as long as the device (and your child) has the ability to install apps including the Chrome browser, you should be okay.

Here are some examples of lower cost devices that will definitely work:

From Costco:

[Acer Chromebook 14" Touchscreen Laptop - AMD Ryzen 5-3500C - 1080p, Protective Sleeve Included - Mist Green](#)

[HP 14" Laptop - 13th Gen Intel Core i3-1315U - 1080p - Windows 11](#)

From BestBuy:

[Acer - Chromebook Plus 515 – 15.6" Full HD Laptop - Intel Core i3-1215U with 8GB LPDDR5X – 128GB UFS - Steel Gray](#)

[Dell - Inspiron 3420 14" Touch Laptop - Qualcomm Snapdragon 8cx Gen 2 - 8GB Memory - 256GB SSD - Platinum](#)

From Amazon:

[HP Stream 14 inch Laptop for Student and Business, Intel Quad-Core N4120 Processor, 16GB RAM, 64GB eMMC, 1-Year Office 365, Webcam, Long Battery Life, Slim Laptop, Wi-Fi, Win 11 S](#)

[HP Chromebook 2024 Newest Laptop Student Business, 14" HD Display, Intel Celeron N4120 Processor, 4GB RAM, 128GB Storage \(64GB eMMC+64GB Card\), Webcam, WiFi, Long Battery, Chrome OS+MarxsoAccessory](#)

As a reminder, all students are expected to have their own set of headphones, so be sure that your child's headphones will work with their device, not just their phones.