

# FRIENDS SELECT

## THE FSS “BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE” PROGRAM

Friends Select has implemented a BYOD, “Bring Your Own Device,” program. The “Bring Your Own Device” program has been very beneficial to students and has enhanced the already rich educational environment of Friends Select. By bringing their own devices students are able to configure their electronic learning environment to fit their own learning style. The electronic device as a tool becomes a very efficient aid to learning. The program requires students 7th through 12th grade to bring their own computing device to school for use on the school network. Any family who believes it cannot meet this requirement should contact the director of middle school or the director of upper school.

### APPROVED DEVICES FOR FSS “BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE” PROGRAM

#### Functional requirements

All devices must be able to:

- Connect securely to the FSS Internet wireless network.
- Connect to the FSS Remote Terminal Server, access the Internet and display Web content.
- Enable students to print and enter information efficiently and easily (*i.e., take notes, write documents and reports, etc.*). An iPad or mobile device would not be ideal.

#### Minimum Technical Recommendations

CPU	Dual Core Processor
Memory	2GB RAM (Preferably 4GB RAM or more)
Hard Drive	128GB Flash Storage ( <i>Preferably 250GB or more</i> ) for non-Netbooks and non-Chromebooks. Access to Google Drive will expand storage capabilities.
Operating System	Windows 7 or Higher, Mac OS 10.10x or Higher, Chrome OS
WiFi	802.11 g/n (Preferably 802.11ac)
Battery Life	Should be able to last student most of the day (4-5 hours)
Anti Virus Software	ESET NOD32 Anti Virus, or McAfee Anti Virus Software

#### Current devices that meet these requirements/recommendations include:

- NetBooks
- Chromebooks
- Windows laptops
- MacBooks

## FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN DECIDING ON A DEVICE

### **NetBooks**

NetBooks provide good functionality and good value. Models that meet the functional requirements outlined above can be purchased for less than \$300. NetBooks are small, easy to transport, and generally have a long battery life. Older students may prefer a larger keyboard. NetBooks generally do not include CD/DVD players. For a better value, the Chromebooks should be considered.

### **Chromebooks**

Chromebooks have become increasingly attractive, as the school has moved heavily in the use of Google Apps. Friends Select students have had a very positive experience with Chromebooks. *We recommend the Samsung Chromebook 3.*

### **Windows Laptops / MacBooks**

Windows laptops and MacBooks are larger and heavier than NetBooks and Chromebooks. Obvious advantages include larger screens and keyboards. Some Windows laptop and MacBook models have CD/DVD players. This option will be more costly, but provides more flexibility and performance. Windows laptops and MacBooks both work equally well with the FSS network, so choosing either Windows or Mac is really a matter of family and personal preference.

These are just a few things to consider when making the decision of which device to purchase. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact a member of the FSS IT department listed below. We will be more than happy to assist you in making the best decision for your family.

Thank you,

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