

2020 Technology: Things to Consider



Most Practical Devices for Virtual Learning

Online learning for K-5 students will be hosted on [Canvas](#), our learning management system (LMS). [Microsoft Teams](#) will be used for live instruction, and other products within the Microsoft suite (Word, Forms) will be used for some assignments.

A [preferred](#) Windows PC runs Windows 10 and has a minimum 1.6GHz processor (32-bit or 64-bit). A preferred Mac runs Mac OS X 10.11 El Capitan or later. Either type of device should have a dual-core processor and have *at least* 4GB RAM; 8GB RAM is preferable for online meetings. Your student should have high-speed internet access with unlimited data.

Specific information about the devices preferred by DCPS is on the reverse of this sheet, and can also be found at dcpsreopenstrong.com > Technology.

Students in 3rd – 5th grade will require a keyboard, and it would be best for K-2 students to have one as well for ease of typing. Detachable keyboards for tablets are fine. Headphones are optional but [recommended](#), especially for households in which students will be working among other family members. Stylus accessories for devices with touch screens are nice for precise on-screen writing, but not required.

Additional Considerations

MS Teams works differently in the app vs. on the desktop. Devices that don't allow users to download the desktop version of Teams will lead to limited functionality. This isn't as big of a concern for young students, but could lead to complexities for K-5 students who need to navigate between channels frequently, use the "hand raising" feature in larger groups, and work on assignments that are completed over multiple sessions. Families with Chromebooks, for example, may face these challenges, even though the video component of Teams works nicely on a Chromebook.

Tablets of any kind should have a stand and not have to be hand-held by the student. We recommend that the device be set a little ways back on the work surface, with a space in front to write or work with materials.

What Won't Work

Amazon Fire tablets, eReaders, Dragon tablets, and other tablets that do not allow apps to be downloaded from Google Play or the app store will not work. Tablets with "learning software" designed specifically for kids (like Leappads) will not work. iOS or Android mobile phones are compatible with Canvas and Teams, but lack functionality for student learning. Downloading Canvas and Teams on a phone can be a very practical way for a parent to keep tabs, get alerts, and upload images, but only as a secondary device.

The standard DCPS Student Device

The student device being distributed by DCPS is a Microsoft Surface Go Tablet Laptop hybrid. Information and specifications can be found [HERE](#). Those owned by DCPS are imaged specifically for student use, with the desktop icons and controls pre-installed. Remote tech support is also available, as OCTO-imaged devices can be updated and controlled remotely. The devices are strictly limited to DCPS-approved programs, however, and other programs (such as Zoom and Youtube) are blocked.



DCPS Recommended Technology

This table provides the recommended specifications for hardware used for students in DC Public Schools. It also includes configuration recommendations and management guidance. We share this guidance for schools, families, donors to reference when making device selections.



Grades	Devices used in DC Public Schools	Minimum Hardware Specs	Recommended Hardware Specs
K-12 (general use)	<p>These models used in DCPS in SY20-21.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Microsoft Surface Go. A laptop-tablet hybrid that also features a world-facing camera and an inking. The Go is the DCPS-selected device for the Empowered Learner’s Initiative (ELI). Learn more. Lenovo 300e Dell 3380 Chromebooks running Chrome OS version 84.0 or higher are now allowed, but the full version of Office Desktop applications is not available on Chromebooks. 	<p>Intel Pentium Gold 4GB RAM 64GB Hard Drive Windows 10 10.5” Touchscreen Keyboard, trackpad, USB-C port World-facing Camera</p>	<p>Intel Core M3 or i3 8GB RAM 128GB Hard Drive Windows 10 10.5” Touchscreen Keyboard, trackpad, USB-C port World-facing Camera</p>
Configuration	<p>Default Browser: Chrome. Edge is also installed. Recommended Extensions to install: Clever Device Management: DCPS devices are managed via Microsoft Intune. Contact OCTO for setup support.</p>		
Pre-K3 and Pre-K4	<p>DCPS recommends iPad tablets for PK students. iPads are managed via AirWatch, allowing DCPS to push applications to the iPad.</p> <p>Apple iPad 7th generation Previous models. iPads that cannot be updated to at least IOS v.11 should be retired.</p> <p>NOT RECOMMENDED: Kindle Fire. Most DCPS-recommend applications do not integrate.</p>	<p>Apple iPad 7th Generation 32GB Model: MW6W2LL/A A10 Fusion chip 10.2” Multi-Touch disp. iPad OS 13.5 or above</p>	<p>Apple iPad 7th Generation 64GB Model: MW6W2LL/A A10 Fusion chip 10.2” Multi-Touch disp. iPad OS 13.5 or above</p>
Configuration	<p>Default Browser: Chrome. Edge is also installed. Recommended Extensions to install: Clever Device Management: DCPS devices are managed via Microsoft Intune. Contact OCTO for setup support.</p>		
Career Technical Education	<p>CTE students also sometimes use Mac computers for graphic design and engineering work.</p>	<p>Intel Core i5 or i7 8GB RAM 256GB Hard Drive Windows 10 Operating System 14” High Resolution Touchscreen Keyboard, trackpad, USB-C port, USB 3.0 ports (x2), HDMI or mini display port</p>	<p>Intel Core i7 16GB RAM 512GB Hard Drive Windows 10 Operating System 14” High Resolution Touchscreen Keyboard, trackpad, USB-C port, USB 3.0 ports (x2), HDMI or mini display port</p>