



WESTSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMY

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TECHNOLOGY

COMMUNICATION

<p>Website www.danbury.k12.ct.us Click on <Schools> <Middle Schools> <Westside Middle School></p>	<p>Principal's Tweets</p>  <p>@franklabanca</p>	<p>PowerSchool Parent Portal danbury.powerschool.com</p>
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BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE ((BYOD))

The Danbury Public Schools supports a 'bring your own device' strategy that allows students to bring their own technology to school. Westside Middle School uses an innovative, technology-enhanced, inquiry-based instructional strategy. We, therefore, encourage students to bring their own devices, as family finances allow, so we can operate the school in a 1:1 (student:computer) environment. We have purposefully decreased the amount of school supplies a student requires so those funds can be leveraged for a device purchase. The school will provide an in-school device for those families that are unable to provide one for their child. **We feel that parents and children are best qualified to decide which device best meets their educational/financial needs and offer only suggestions for choice selection.**

BENEFITS TO BYOD

- **Students are more connected to their own device.** Recent studies demonstrate increased student engagement (and parent approval) when they are allowed to use their own devices for learning. Students already know how to use their device to its maximum potential. There is also the added benefit of knowing the device will be coming home with them.
- **Creates true personalized learning opportunities.** The use of technology in the classroom allows teachers to better customize learning for students and provide different, differentiated options.
- **Student collaboration and communication increases.** Students have more opportunities to interact virtually with teachers, study online, and work with other students on assignments, projects, and content creation.
- **More options for learning.** BYOD typically helps students be more organized because there is far less paper, binders, and folders that need organization. They have more access to resources that enhance learning regularly, and they have a tool that allows learning to continue outside of the classroom.

SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE PURCHASING A DEVICE

Will you be using the device without access to a power outlet for long periods of time?

- Battery life varies considerably among devices. Traditional laptops often have limited battery life (3.5 hours or less) that may not last a full school day. Check to make sure that the battery in the device will get the student through the day. There will be secure locations to charge devices in the school.

Will you be using the device to store large media files (music, video, pictures)?

- Chromebooks in particular tend to offload storage into the cloud, due to limited storage on the device. This means that any media that a student may wish to access will have to be accessed through an Internet connection.

Do you want to install older Microsoft applications that you may have around the house?

- Windows RT is NOT Windows 8. While Windows 8 and 8.1 can install any legacy applications (anything that ran on Windows 7, Vista, or earlier), Windows RT can only install applications available on the Windows Store. Please ensure the store has all apps you would like to install prior to purchasing.

BYOD Comparison Chart

	ChromeOS	Windows RT	Windows 8/8.1	Apple OSX
Software	Chrome Apps Store	Windows Store	Windows Store AND all Windows Software	All OSX Programs
Battery Life	8+ hours	8+ hours	Model Dependent	Model Dependent
Touchscreen	No	Yes	Model Dependent	No
Productivity (Wordprocessing, Spreadsheet, Presentation) [Office] Suite	Google Drive	Microsoft Office Included	No Office Included; Office Home and Student available for \$126	Comes with Pages, Keynote, Numbers installed No Office Included; Office Home and Student available for \$126
Keyboard	Integrated	No; Bluetooth or Accessory Required	Depends on Model	Integrated
Price	\$179 - \$450	\$400	\$500 and up	\$999 and up
Suggested Models	Samsung Chromebook 2 Acer C720	Microsoft Surface 2	Lenovo Yoga 2 Microsoft Surface Pro	Macbook Air 11 Inch
Notes	Chromebooks really require Internet access to be used to their full potential. They lack extensive storage that other systems would have. Some apps including Google docs and spreadsheets have limited functionality without an Internet connection.	Windows RT requires installation of software from the Windows Store. While apps are being added everyday, software options are limited.	Windows 8 can be tricky to use without a touchscreen device. It is highly recommended to purchase a touchscreen device to get the best Windows 8 experience.	Apple OSX does include Microsoft Office; however, it is sold separately.

Certain smartphones and tablets may work for students as well, but there are limitations to their use. The above options are available from retailers and online sources. It is suggested that you take time to visit a retail store and get a hands-on experience with the device prior to purchase, even if you choose to order online. Please note that the Microsoft Store in the Danbury Fair Mall is offering a 10% discount to all Danbury students. While there are suggested models listed, please examine all options and choose the one you feel best suits your situation, ***even if it is not on our list***. Considering the daily use of these devices, it is also recommended that extended warranties, especially those covering accidental damage, be purchased to protect your investment.