



Merrimac
State High School
Gold Coast, Australia

Pride in Excellence

**BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE
PROGRAM**

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ABOUT THE 'BYOD' PROGRAM

The digital world is a reality and Information Technology (IT) devices are powerful means of differentiating and personalising a student's education, as well as providing them with the technological skills for success in the 21st century.

Merrimac State High School has introduced a 'Bring Your Own Device' (BYOD) Program that permits students to select their own device (within specifications) that can be used both at school and at home, allowing for a seamless transition between the two learning environments.

The BYOD program has been designed to assist parents make informed choices on the appropriate technology to buy and supply for their child, while considering functionality, budget and family choice. Student-owned devices facilitate student choice over which application best suits their learning and communication style.

As part of the BYOD Program, we require families to purchase an electronic device using the specifications below. This device will be for the student's personal use and is considered their primary device. With this primary device we will continue to support students by diagnosing IT issues and consulting with families if further action is required. We make the following recommendations around device specifications as these meet the expectations the school requires of any IT devices that students bring to school.

BYOD DEVICE SPECIFICATION

Specification	Minimum	Desirable
Processor	Intel® Pentium® Processor AMD Athlon™ Processor Apple M1 / A10	Intel® Core™ Processor AMD Ryzen™ Processor Apple M1 / A12
Operating System	Windows 11 iOS/iPadOS 17.x and later macOS 14.x and later	
Battery life	8 hours+	
Wireless	802.11ac (Wi-Fi 5)	802.11ax (Wi-Fi 6)
Screen Size	9.7"+	
Storage	128GB+ SSD	
External Ports	3.5mm headphone jack	
Physical Keyboard	Yes	
Warranty	3 years	
Accidental Damage Protection	Yes	

Example Devices

Apple Macbook Air / Macbook Pro
Microsoft Surface Laptop / Surface Go / Surface Pro
Acer TravelMate / Aspire / Swift / Spin
HP x360 / Pavilion / Envy
Dell Inspiron / Latitude
Lenovo ThinkPad / IdeaPad
Apple iPad/ iPad Air / iPad Pro

WHEN TO PURCHASE

It is expected that all students will have an IT device ready for the first day of school. It is a good idea to purchase the device early so the student can become familiar with it and they are ready to commence learning.

CHOOSING YOUR DEVICE

We can understand and appreciate the uncertainties that may be associated with choosing the best device for your child. This documentation provides the minimum and desirable specifications that are required as well as examples of the majority of the popular brands that meet these specifications. **Android tablets and Chromebooks do not meet the minimum specifications and are not supported by the school.**

We are unable to recommend one particular device over another due to the “Public Sector Ethics Act 1994” where we have a “duty to provide advice which is objective, independent, apolitical and impartial”.

Should you have any specific questions in regards to a particular device please consult our IT staff and they will be happy to assist you. **Luke McMahon** can be contacted via email lmcm77@eq.edu.au.

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SETTING UP YOUR DEVICE

BYOxLink

The Department of Education Bring Your Own (BYO) device solution “BYOxLink” enables students to use their privately owned devices to access school email, learning applications, printers and shared network drives at the school. As part of BYOxLink, the school’s wireless systems have been updated and Microsoft Intune; a mobile device management platform, has been introduced.

Microsoft Intune

Enrolling your child’s device into Microsoft Intune will mean your child will be able to:

- access the school Wi-Fi network and have school email automatically set up and configured
- access the school’s learning applications and websites
- self-manage their personal device

Microsoft Office 365

As part of the Microsoft Student Advantage Program, all state school students are eligible to download free copies of Microsoft Office 365 to use on their personal home computers and mobile computer equipment.

Adobe Creative Cloud

Adobe Creative Cloud is a collection of desktop and mobile apps and services for photography, design, video, web, UX and more. Adobe licensing is provided as required via your student’s class teacher.

It is strongly recommended that students install required software and enrol their device into Microsoft Intune at home using the home Wi-Fi internet connection. Additional information and instructions regarding software installation and how to enrol your device into Microsoft Intune can be found on the school website: <https://merrimacshs.eq.edu.au/curriculum/bring-your-own-device>

BACKING UP

Technology can fail and can be lost or stolen so it is extremely important that students have a backup plan in case things go wrong.

Backing up is easy. Once set up, your data should be backing up automatically, however students need to make sure your backups actually work. There are two main types of backup solutions.

Local Backup

Every week, copy your most important files onto an external hard drive or memory stick. You may use Windows backup (or Time Machine, if you have a Mac) to do this automatically!

Offsite Backup

This is another automatic backup on an external hard drive that's stored at another location, such as a friend or family's house. This protects your backup in case of theft, natural disaster or simple hardware failure.

CARE OF DEVICE

It is the responsibility of families to keep their chosen IT device in good working order to ensure minimal disruption to learning. It is expected that students bring their IT device to school each day fully charged. Each device should be clearly labelled with the student's name.

Students should take care to put their device to sleep when moving around, as failure to do so can damage the Hard Drive and potentially lose files. Choosing a device with a solid state drive (SSD) can alleviate some of these issues.

CASE / CARRY BAG

A strong carry case is a great way to protect your device from accidental damage. Use a bag or case designed to hold a laptop with adequate padding.

INSURANCE

Purchasing insurance is a personal choice. When purchasing your laptop please learn about your options to purchase accidental damage protection for your IT device. This covers your device with accidental damage on and off the school campus. Fire, theft and acts of God are usually not covered under these programs and we request you include it in your personal or home insurance. The insurance can be purchased with your computer vendor or any insurance company. All insurance claims must be settled between you and the insurance company. The school does not offer insurance and is not liable for any damage caused. Students who accidentally or other, damage another student's device will be managed through the Code of Conduct. The school is able to mediate costs between parties but has no legal authority to arbitrate an outcome.

WARRANTY

We recommend that all devices have an extended warranty. The additional warranty should be negotiated with the seller at the time of purchase.

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

All maintenance for the IT device, operating system, software and/or apps purchased by the family are the responsibility of the family. Families may choose to install additional antivirus products on their devices at their discretion. Windows devices come pre-installed with Windows Defender which meets the requirements for connecting to the school network. Families should ensure quick maintenance turnaround for student devices. If a student laptop is in for repair for an extended period of time the school may have a loan laptop to support the student's ongoing learning.

SCHOOL SUPPORT

Merrimac SHS IT Support staff are available to support students during break times each day at the IT Office in N Block. Students are advised to see the school IT staff who will attempt to diagnose the fault. If this is not able to be resolved by staff, they can recommend a course of action for repair (e.g. warranty claim, insurance claim etc.).

PURCHASE COST

A small number of families may need assistance with the initial purchase price of the laptop. If this is the case please ring the school to make a private appointment with the Business Manager. The school will work with parents to make arrangements through Centrelink payments to cover the purchase cost.