



Merrimac
State High School
Gold Coast, Australia

Pride in Excellence

**BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE
PROGRAM**
2016/2017



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THE PROGRAM

In recent years the Commonwealth Government has supported schools to provide greater access to computers for learning to a growing number of students.

Since 2009 Merrimac State High School has delivered a One to One Laptop Program for all Year 9 – 12 students. The program was made possible through the joint contributions of the Commonwealth and State governments, Merrimac State High School and parents.

During this period the school invested significant funds towards infrastructure to support 1000+ laptops and developing the best digital resources to support learning. Consequently, the use of computer technology has irreversibly changed how teaching and learning occurs in classrooms. With the withdrawal of the Commonwealth government's support for computers in the classroom we must now look for the most effective way to continue to deliver the best learning opportunities for our students.

As we have already invested in the infrastructure and learning resources, we are keen to offer a BYOD Model for students and parents.

WHAT IS BYOD?

BYOD stands for 'Bring Your Own Device'. This program permits students to bring their own device, within specifications, to school to support and further their education. It means devices such as personal laptops can now access school and Education Queensland networks where previously this has not been allowed. This makes working between home and school seamless for students.

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.

Information Technology (IT) devices are powerful means of differentiating and personalising a student's education, and student-owned devices facilitate student choice over which application best suits their learning and communication style. Teachers will work with students to ensure everyone can access and view a student's final work in appropriate formats as necessary.

We require families to select and purchase a laptop, from within specifications set out below, to bring to school. This laptop will be for the student's personal use and is considered as 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 laptop specifications and software as these meet the expectations the school requires of any IT devices students bring to school.

BYOD LAPTOP SPECIFICATION

Specification	Years 7, 8, 9		Years 10, 11, 12	
	Minimum	Desirable	Minimum	Desirable
Processor	Intel Celeron N Series or AMD E1 Series	Intel Celeron N Series or AMD E1 Series	Intel Celeron N Series or AMD E1 Series	Intel Celeron N Series or AMD E1 Series
RAM	4GB	4GB	4GB	4GB
Operating System	Windows 10 or OSX 10.11.4 El Capitan	Windows 10 or OSX 10.11.4 El Capitan	Windows 10 or OSX 10.11.4 El Capitan	Windows 10 or OSX 10.11.4 El Capitan
Battery life	6 hours	8 hours	6 hours	8 hours
Wireless	802.11 n Dual Band	802.11 n Dual Band	802.11 n Dual Band	802.11 n Dual Band
Screen Size	11"+	11"+	11"+	11"+
Warranty	3 Years total	3 Years total	3 Years total	3 Years total
Hard Drive Capacity	128GB	128GB	256GB	256GB
Accidental Damage Protection	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
External Port	USB Audio Out	USB Audio Out	USB Audio Out	USB Audio Out

Example Devices

Dell Inspiron 11 inch 3000 Series – from \$449.00

Acer Aspire R3 – from \$599.00

HP Pavilion x360 11-k131tu – from \$699.00

Macbook Air 11 inch – from \$1399.00

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.

Unfortunately we are unable to recommend one particular device over another due to our adherence 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. Kyle Davies can be contacted on email kdavi397@eq.edu.au.

SOFTWARE

Software supplied by the school will be made available for students to download and install from home.

Software	Costing
Microsoft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word • Excel • PowerPoint • OneNote 	Supplied by School through the Microsoft Student Advantage program – no cost
Adobe Creative Cloud	Supplied by School – no cost
Internet Browser	As supplied in operating system

All teaching staff can fully assist students in the Windows operating environment. However, if assistance is required with Apple Mac software support may be limited.

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. Students need to check every once in a while 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 like drops. 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.

WARRANTY

We advise that all devices are covered by an extended warranty to last the students' time at the school. 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 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

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 (eg warranty claims, 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.