



## Mount Pisgah Upper School

### Bring Your Own Device Program

Dear Upper School Parents,

Our mission statement, the essence of which is *College Prep. Life Ready.*, is the driving force behind everything we do at Mount Pisgah Christian School.

We believe that students entering the workforce in the 21st century need technology skills that will allow them to contribute to the success of businesses and organizations in a highly competitive, technological and global society.

Therefore, we want to equip students with the skills they need to truly be “Life Ready.” Mount Pisgah's Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program allows teachers to empower students to technology as a tool to enhance learning and creativity.

With this in mind, Mount Pisgah's BYOD program requires all students in grades 9-12 to bring their own laptops that meet the device requirements specified in this document.



#### Goals of the BYOD Program:

- Provide a 1:1 student-computer ratio that makes technology resources accessible to all students, enabling and encouraging digital learning during and beyond the school day.
- Teach students to use technology as a God-given tool for advancing Christ's kingdom.
- Improve the digital literacy and citizenship of graduating students, preparing them for the college setting and workforce.
- Establish creative learning environments that integrate technology into classroom instruction and student learning.

#### Important BYOD Program Details:

- The School provides access to Microsoft products (for Mac and PC devices) through Microsoft 365 for free for all students as well as Google Suite tools for collaboration, and Schoology as the Learning Management System.

- All students and parents will be required to sign the School's Acceptable Use Policy Agreement that will detail the policies of the BYOD program.
- Students should start bringing their devices on the first day of school. New students will receive orientation prior to school starting to gain access to school-provided software and passwords.
- Students will need internet connection available at home to ensure they can complete their digital assignments and homework.
- At school content filtering is in place through the School's Wifi Networks. Parents are responsible for filtering internet content at home on personal Wifi networks.
- Personally-owned devices will be used at the teacher's direction in class for educational purposes only. Each teacher and class will use the laptops differently, as it fits the needs of their specific content area.
- Personally-owned devices are the responsibility of the student and family, and they will not be repaired or maintained by the school's IT department.

## BYOD Device Specifications

Below are the recommended minimum requirements for devices. You may, of course, choose a laptop that exceeds these minimum requirements.

***You may bring either a Windows PC or Apple Laptop; both are compatible options.***



When considering a device, we recommend (but do not require) a device that provides tablet and touch functionality and includes a stylus for the use of digital inking programs such as OneNote. Examples of devices that include these features are Microsoft Surface, Lenovo Yoga, HP Pavilion x360, Dell Inspiron 11 3000 2-in-1s and many other convertible tablet laptops.

Recommended **MINIMUM** specifications:

**Devices must run a full operating system (Windows or Apple OS) – iOS and other tablet or phone operating systems will not suffice.**

Windows PC

- Intel i5 Processor or better
- 4GB RAM
- Windows 8 or newer
- 128GB hard drive

Apple Computer

- Macbook or Macbook Air (2012 or newer recommended)
- 4GB RAM
- 128GB hard drive

*\*NOTE: If you have already purchased a laptop for your student that met the requirements from last year, you DO NOT need to purchase a new device.*

## School-Provided Software

### Microsoft Office Suite (Microsoft 365)

The School provides access to Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point, One Note, Outlook and other Microsoft programs through Microsoft 365. Students are provided free access to this software during the time they are enrolled at Mount Pisgah. This access provides a software install version and a web-based version of Microsoft Products.



We will provide students with their usernames and passwords to access the free download and installation of the Microsoft Office software during new student orientation.

### Google Apps for Education (G Suite)

Mount Pisgah is a Google Apps for Education school, which means that each middle and upper school student is provided a school-issued Google account.



GAFE accounts provide:

- Powerful collaboration tools for learning, which are a key component in equipping students with 21st century skills.
- Safe, secure and monitored access to Google's large array of tools for education. Since these are school-issued accounts, Mount Pisgah's administration can monitor and restrict access to some Google-affiliated tools, such as GooglePlus.
- Cloud-based file management and web-based access, which means students can access their work from any computer or device with access to the internet.

### Schoology

Schoology is a web-based learning management system that functions as a central hub for all teachers, students and parents to access academic information. From their devices, students can access a calendar of assignments, a gradebook and resources and links available for each course. Schoology also provides online submission of assignments and other interactive instructional components tools.



### Adobe Creative Suite

Adobe Creative Suite is available to students who are enrolled in classes that require access to the Software. At the start of the school year or semester, any students enrolled in these specific classes will have these tools installed on their computers.



## Frequently Asked Questions

*Do I need to purchase Microsoft Word or Microsoft Office?*

No. The school will provide access for students to download the Microsoft Office suite to their own devices through Microsoft 365. This service also provides a web-based version of Microsoft Office that saves in the cloud.

*What about an iPad, iPhone or Android Tablet?*

Students need a device that meets the specifications above, including a Windows, Apple or Chrome operating system. The iPad, running on Apple's iOS, is limited in its functions for the classroom. The only possible consideration of a tablet would be one that runs a full Windows operating system. This type of tablet would also need to include a keyboard to equate its functionality to a laptop.

*Will access to the internet be filtered?*

Yes, through our internet filtering system in our wireless network, Mount Pisgah will restrict access to sites; however, students will be held accountable to the School's Acceptable Use Policy Agreement to use their devices responsibly and only access information for learning and educational purposes.

*What happens if the battery runs out?*

We recommend that parents purchase devices that have a battery life of 6-7 hours, which should be more than sufficient for a normal school day if the device is fully charged prior to coming to school. Students maintain the responsibility to care for the device and to keep it charged and prepared for class. Mount Pisgah classrooms will provide limited charging opportunities if a student needs to charge his or her device.

*What happens if my child's computer is broken, stops working, lost, stolen or damaged?*

The computer is ultimately the responsibility of the student. Please provide an adequate case or protection for the device as you see fit. We recommend that you purchase a maintenance/insurance plan for any device used by your child. Mount Pisgah does not have the capacity to repair computers. We also recommend that you install tracking software that would allow you to locate the device if it is misplaced. If your child's device is missing or damaged at school, please contact an administrator immediately so that we can follow up and check security cameras.