2017-2018 GWCS STUDENT LAPTOP REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION

GWCS STUDENT LAPTOP REQUIREMENTS

In order to efficiently operate the software on page 2, your school laptop needs the **minimum** requirements listed below. You will find that most standard configurations for basic Windows and OS operations systems meet these minimum requirements.

Computer and processor PC: 1 gigahertz (GHz) or faster x86-bit or x64-bit processor with SSE2 instruction set Mac: Intel processor
Memory PC: 2 GB RAM (we recommend 4 GB RAM) Mac: 4 GB RAM
Hard Disk PC: 3 GB available disk space Mac: 6GB available disk space   HFS+ hard disk format (also known as Mac OS Extended or HFS Plus)
Display PC: 1024 x 768 screen resolution Mac: 1280 x 800 screen resolution
Graphics PC: Graphics hardware acceleration requires a DirectX 10 graphics card.
Operating system PC: Windows 10/ Windows 8.1/ Windows 8/ Windows 7 w/service pack 1 Mac: Mac OS X 10.10 or later
Browser Current version of Microsoft Edge, Safari, Chrome, or Firefox
Wireless Internet Connection
Ability to install full desktop programs to device Currently, Chromebooks do not allow you to download various software

GWCS PROVIDED SOFTWARE

GW Community School is happy to provide the following software to each student free of charge:

Microsoft Office 365 for Business (info)
This is a premium subscription service which gives students access to Microsoft Office software. Students have access to the following online apps as well as the ability to download the full desktop software. GWCS families may utilize this subscription on up to five computers and an unlimited number of devices! Microsoft Office 365 Business includes:

- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Excel
- Microsoft PowerPoint
- Microsoft Outlook
- Microsoft OneNote
- Microsoft Publisher
- Microsoft OneDrive
- Skype for Business

Teacher/Student Dashboard (info)
This is a yearly subscription service through which teachers send and receive classroom assignments. This software works with Microsoft Office 365 and uses Outlook to deliver assignments and OneDrive to save and organize assignments.

Logger Pro (Used in Science Classes)
This is a data-collection and analysis software used for science labs.

WebAssign (Math Program, Mr. Lindner)
This is an online instructional tool.

Equation Editor (MS Word extension used in science classes, Dr. Cox)
This is a standalone program that allows the user to create mathematical equations with ease.

Virtual Educational Observatory (Used in science classes, Dr. Cox)
A simulated observatory which can access a huge database of astronomical information, both through a set of dedicated catalogs and via on-line databases.

★*Students will have the opportunity to install all of this software during orientation the first week of school and throughout the year during workaround. MSO365 may be installed before school. Refer to the GWCS website for instructions.*

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IMPORTANT SCHOOL LAPTOP TIPS

GENERAL TIPS:
- 13-14 Inch Screens are a good size – Larger screens make laptops hard to transport
- Full Size Integrated Keyboard makes typing easier
- Larger hard drive to hold documents and programs
- Processor that favors battery life
- An additional charger (one for school/one for home) comes in handy. Label it with your name.
- A warranty is a good idea if you are rough on computers
- Protective computer case/sleeve that will fit in backpack or…
- Backpack with laptop section

PC vs. Mac: Although we list requirements for Macs, students have found that MSO 365 integrates with PCs much easier and with fewer issues than with Macs. This may change as MSO works through the Mac issues. Teachers all have PCs and are more capable of assisting students with tech issues on a PC than with a Mac. (Note: families are responsible for their own computer tech repairs.)

Chromebooks: You may be told that MSO365 works with Chromebooks. Although it is true that the MSO apps will work with Chromebooks, the apps are not sufficient for all classwork. Additionally, students will need to be able to download the various software to the device.

HELPFUL ARTICLES:

System Requirements for Microsoft Office 365:
https://products.office.com/en-gb/office-system-requirements

GWCS Website: Technology for Academic Success:
http://www.gwcommunityschool.com/gwcs-office-365/

GWCS Website Microsoft Office 365 Setup:
http://www.gwcommunityschool.com/office-365-set-up/