

AMDG

Dear Incoming Families,

On behalf of the school community, please allow me to express our excitement for the upcoming school year. We have a technology program initiative to share with you as we prepare to welcome our students on August 10th.

Over the past few years Xavier conducted a technology study on the use of technology in our classrooms. We formed a focus group of students, faculty, staff, and parents; the group reflected on areas of stewardship of technology on campus, improving the student and teacher experience through technology, and the responsible and ethical use of technology in an increasingly technological world. In addition to the focus group Xavier increased the amount of resources for technology, we purchased Macs in the computer labs for Digital Arts, Music Theory and World Language courses; we purchased Mac Books and Surface Pros to be used as classroom tools in research; we upgraded our faculty's and staff's computers, bandwidth and storage on campus; and we updated the servers. Last year we initiated a 1:1 technology program with our incoming freshmen. In light of the implementation, we witnessed first-hand the impact on student engagement, collaboration, organization, and project-based learning.

Xavier will continue a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Program for the incoming freshmen this fall.

In an effort to keep our students and faculty as safe as possible, the best device is a Chromebook. A Chromebook has all the functionality a student needs for most classes. Freshmen and families are asked to bring a device that you own, or purchase a new device for school, which meets the qualifications listed below. We have also listed below a few options for devices that meet our criteria.

With the technology BYOD initiative, we desire to help students:

1. develop skills such as problem solving, creative thinking, collaboration, and complex communication through active, student-centered, content-rich learning;
2. deepen student awareness of the world, highlighting the diverse cultures and practices around the globe, and providing access to communication to people from diverse backgrounds;
3. engage responsible digital citizens who use technology ethically, effectively, and appropriately, while at the same time building relationships with others.

Our teachers already work towards these goals through our existing curriculum. Technology is used as an instructional aide, not a replacement for the good teaching which is the most valuable resource at our school. When properly embedded into the curriculum and used in conjunction with other teaching resources, technology has the capacity to enhance student learning. Technology should be thought of as a tool that can help foster creativity, collaboration, and inquiry-based learning. In regard to the other courses, we will leave technology use up to the discretion of the classroom teacher. The different technology approaches by our teachers will model for students the appropriate use of the devices. *This provides us an opportunity to teach balance and wellness with regards to technology: how, when, and why it is important to turn off mobile devices and interact face-to-face.*

A component described in one of the Jesuit School Networks key documents, *Go Forth and Teach*, is technology: “While it continues to give emphasis to the traditional humanistic studies that are essential for an understanding of the human person, Jesuit education also includes a careful and critical study of *technology*” (5). However, the staggering growth of technology requires consistent examination of best practices.

We will continue to examine our relationship with technology and ensure that *cura personalis* remain the hallmark of the student-teacher relationship.

Xavier’s BYOD Program Requirements for Incoming Freshmen

Families will be able to choose a device to bring to school from a list of recommended devices that meet minimum specifications. We chose this program for several reasons that we mentioned above, but including:

- The prevalence of web-based tools and non-device specific programs, which enhance innovative learning
- The desire for students to be able to produce original work and customize their learning experience
- The budgetary realities of each family
- The freedom for students to choose a device that fits their comfort level and interests, similar to colleges and university requirements of students.

Families will be able to purchase a device that meets clearly defined functional requirements. The information below will describe these requirements and offer examples of approved devices to help families make informed decisions. Please consider the following steps before purchasing a device for your family:

- Review the recommended devices and minimum requirements
- Attend the information session offered in August in order to see examples of these devices
- Research the capabilities and prices of the specific device in which you are interested
- Purchase the device that best meets your family's needs
- Select textbooks/e-books based on your new device (if the family desires to purchase them)

While this program allows for choice and customization, student devices are required to meet several requirements. Please see these requirements on the next page.

Minimum Requirements

- Operating System – a fully functional operating system: Windows 10, macOS and ChromeOS are recommended. iOS and Android can be made to work but these operating systems lack certain functionality.
- Google Apps (G-Suite) – ability to access Google Apps for Education through the web browser or apps. Google Apps for Education include Google Classroom, Google Drive, Google Email, and other similar apps. The school provides a Google account to each student.
- Wireless – ability to connect to a wireless network (Wi-Fi) system using Standard 802.11.
- Screen Size - a minimum screen size of 7." A 9 ' ' or larger screen is recommended.
- Storage – a minimum of 16 GB of local storage, either hard disk or solid state. 32GB or more is recommended (if local storage is low the device should allow for alternate external storage via a USB or SD port).
- Battery – a minimum battery life of five to six hours. If the device allows batteries to be swapped, students can bring multiple charged batteries to school to meet this standard.
- Microphone/Headphones – allow for the use of a microphone and headphones, either through separate jacks for the microphone and headphone, a combined microphone/headphone jack, USB port, or Bluetooth connection. Microphones may also be part of the device hardware.
- Camera - allow for the use of a camera for attending live class sessions and meetings via Zoom, either through built-in device camera or through a separate USB port.

Every student must have broadband Internet access outside of school, either through Wi-Fi or a physical connection, to complete homework assignments. This can be at home, in a relative's home, or in a public place such as a library or coffee shop. Families with financial difficulties should investigate if they're eligible for the *Internet Essentials program (\$10/month Internet: <http://www.internetessentials.com/>)*

Below is a list of recommended equipment that some students may find useful:

- Keyboard – a physical keyboard is recommended, either built into the device or as a separate Bluetooth or USB keyboard.
- Case – a protective case or padded bag for their device.

Xavier will provide user-level technology support, such as troubleshooting apps and software issues, to the student body. Physical damage or complex issues will require the families to find options for support off campus. In the event of a damaged device, students will be able to borrow a loaner device until their device has been repaired or replaced. Families are strongly encouraged to consider an extended warranty, breakage policy, or a customer support program when purchasing a new device.

--PLEASE SEE A LIST OF RECOMMENDED DEVICES ON THE NEXT PAGE--

Recommended Devices

Type of Device Pros Cons Sample Devices

<u>Type of Device</u>	<u>Pros</u>	<u>Cons</u>	<u>Sample Devices</u>
Apple MacBook/Air/Pro	Long battery Life Familiar Operating System Easily Accessible Support	More expensive than other devices Device-specific connections; more expensive to add equipment	MacBook MacBook Air MacBook Pro
Microsoft Windows Laptop	Large Pool of Applications and Software Familiar Operating System More add-on equipment options	Battery life Review Customer support options by provider	Lenovo IdeaPad Dell Inspiron
Microsoft Windows Tablet	Large Pool of Applications and Software Familiar Operating System Touchscreen	Battery life Review Customer support options by provider	Microsoft Surface Pro
Chromebook	Long Battery Life Inexpensive Some models have ports for USB storage Simple and reliable	Limited offline abilities Limited applications and software May limit availability of e-books	Asus Chromebook Acer Chromebook

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call the school office to make an appointment to speak with me personally.

Gratefully,
Chris Alling, President