



The Ethel Walker School

Student Technology Requirements for The Ethel Walker School

All students at The Ethel Walker School are required to have a device for their academic work. As an Apple school, we strongly recommend Apple laptops (MacBooks) for their versatility and functionality. iPads are also acceptable. Families are responsible for purchasing the student's device, and students are expected to bring their device, fully charged, and in good repair, to school each day.

- Acceptable laptops include: an Apple laptop (MacBook) with either of the latest operating systems (OS X 10.12 or newer)
 - You may compare new Mac models here: <http://www.apple.com/mac/compare/>
- Acceptable models for the iPad include: iOS 12 or newer. iPad minis are acceptable, though students may prefer a larger screen for reading electronic texts, writing, and editing creative projects.
 - You may compare new iPad models here: <http://www.apple.com/ipad/compare/>
 - Some students with iPads have found external keyboards to be helpful for such tasks as word processing. A keyboard is not a necessary accessory, but some do find it beneficial.

[Apple Education Pricing for iPad and Mac](#)

With the School's use of such academic resources as Google Apps for Education, Apple iBooks and Amazon Kindle ebooks, digital notetaking and annotation apps, presentation and multimedia editing software, and our online student information and learning management systems, students with a MacBook or iPad will be poised to take full advantage of these tools for learning.

The student's mobile device will put her in control of her learning and allow for seamless inquiry, collaboration, presentation, and reflection in the classroom. Her device will enable access to the wealth of digital educational resources and, with the help of her teachers and peers, empower her to strengthen her literacies, global perspective, creativity, and abilities to think critically and communicate effectively.

In addition to supporting students' use of their mobile devices, the School remains committed to maintaining its computer labs on campus to ensure every student will have access to the processing power, cloud connections, and larger screens of desktop computers as needed.

FAQs

Can I bring a device other than an iPad or Macbook laptop (e.g. PC, Chromebook)?

As an Apple school, we rely on very specific ecosystems of applications and technologies that are not available in other platforms. If you have any questions or if you already own another device, please contact Director of Technology Mark Fuller at mfuller@ethelwalker.org or +1-860-408-4230.

Can I get the iPad Mini?

The iPad Mini running at least iOS 12 meets the requirements for the school, however we find that many students strain to read and do their work on the smaller screens. We recommend purchasing a full size iPad or Macbook.

Do I need extra memory and/or the Cellular Antenna for the iPad?

For most students, the 16gb wifi model will be more than enough. The School provides reliable, fast wifi in all campus buildings. Unless your student plans to carry a lot of media on her iPad (several movies and/or thousands of songs and photos) it should be enough.

However, if you think you might need more space or the cellular data, think ahead. You can't add those later.

What is AppleCare+?

[AppleCare+](#) is an extension of the coverage that comes with the device. In addition to extending the normal warranty from 1 to 2 years, it also adds coverage for accidental or physical damage. Normally, the cost to repair an iPad is a bit more than half the cost of a new device. With AppleCare+ the deductible for repair is much, much, less.