Required BYOD program – 6th through 8th Grade:
FAQ

HARDWARE: Purchasing a device is a very individual decision that ultimately depends upon the user's technology skills and understanding. We have listed the minimum requirements below for the device. The notebook the school currently buys for student use is the Lenovo ThinkPad Yoga 11e 5th gen.

Requirements: (*The following five requirements are for the 1:1 BYOD program, a student can bring other devices to school if they fall within our Personal Electronics Policy.*)

1. Minimum 10" and Maximum 15" screen size
2. Capable of connecting to High Meadows' wireless infrastructure (802.11 n or better wireless connectivity compatible with WPA2)
3. Battery life of at least 3 hours (actual runtime with normal usage and WiFi connectivity)
4. Keyboard (a wireless connected keyboard, such as a Bluetooth keyboard for an iPad, is fine)
5. Meets the minimum functionality list for the Middle School classroom:
    a. Word Processing
    b. Internet Browsing
    c. Reads and Prints Adobe PDFs
    d. Email

<u>What We Recommend</u>: **A system meeting the above requirements running Windows 10 or Mac OS with a screen size between 11 and 14 inches and at least one USB port.** The successful integration of any device depends on the skills and knowledge of the user. The above requirements are all that is required, so the device you choose could be an Android Tablet, iPad, Chrome book, Linux System, Mac OS X system, a Windows System, or something else. However, since the computers we use in Middle years, the dedicated presentation station in each room, the teacher's laptop, and the school-owned student notebooks are all Windows-based systems with the Windows Office suite, **we recommend you go with a similar system and software to what is currently being used in Middle Years.**

==**We highly recommend a device that supports a 'Desktop OS' – <u>Windows 10 or Mac OS</u>. Not iOS, Android, or Chrome OS.**==

IPads, Chromebooks, and Android tablets are capable devices with several pros and advantages, but they can require a lot of knowledge from the user and are not something we can as easily assist with and support in a mixed device environment, especially when it comes to transferring or storing files, printing, screen sharing, mimicking the functionality of applications we commonly use at school, and compatibility with web based applications (Office 365, Flash, etc.) These devices are very application centric and can perform some functions very well, but can also be frustrating when you try to get them to do something outside of their common functionality, **so we don't recommend them** unless the end user feels they will be able to handle and figure out all the ins and outs with very little to no support from High Meadow's faculty and staff.

SOFTWARE: Office Suite or the equivalent – Office 365 free through the school: Every student will have access to cloud storage, email account, calendar, and sites. Through Office 365 Pro plus the full version of MS Office can also be downloaded and installed locally on the student's device at no cost to the student.

FILE STORAGE: Cloud storage with local sync capability – there are many free services that offer this, including Office 365 that is offered through the school. We recommend using OneDrive and Teams through the school provided Office 365 subscription.

PRINTING: Student printers are made available with posted IP addresses – students are welcome to connect and print to these with teacher permission. Directions will be provided for Windows 10 and Mac OS X and the technology team is happy to help students upon request by sending an email to techsupport@highmeadows.org.

POLICIES: The school's Personal Electronics Policy and Responsible Use Agreements still apply with the BYOD program. In general, all activity should be teacher directed. Some things can be assumed to be okay, such as taking notes, unless otherwise directed by the teacher – and some things should be assumed as NOT okay such as playing music, games, or visiting social media.