WHERE *Brilliance* **BEGINS**

Middle and Upper School Student Computer Requirement

ULS Middle and Upper School students are **required** to supply their own portable computers for classwork. Here are a few considerations to keep in mind as you decide which device will provide your student(s) with the best educational experience.

Device Types
- **Recommended**:
  - Microsoft Windows-based notebook computer
  - Apple iOS-based Macbook
  - Chrome OS-based Chromebook*
- **Not Recommended**: Tablets**
- **Not Permitted**: Smartphones are not allowed as a computer device

As you consider your best computer option, ULS offers the following guidance:
- Coursework is provided via Google G Suite for Education, including Gmail, Drive, Classroom, etc.
- A no-cost, cloud-based Microsoft Office 365 subscription is an option for students 13 years and older with a valid ULS student email account, as permitted by Microsoft.
- Optional 3G/4G wireless connections circumvent ULS campus Web filters and should be avoided.
- On Technology Guidance Day in August, the ULS Technology Staff offers additional guidance regarding your particular device.

Damage and Repair/Replacement Policy
As with any personal property, appropriate use and care of a student's computer rests solely with the student. Damage, repair and/or replacement is also the student's responsibility. A number of options exist to provide coverage for your student's computer.
- When buying a new computer, consider including the vendor's maintenance contract with accidental damage protection.
- You may also choose to purchase coverage from a third-party insurance company specializing in computer coverage.
- Your homeowner's insurance may include coverage for personal electronics and computers. Please consult your current policy or contact your insurance carrier for details and clarification.

ULS personnel are not responsible for student laptop diagnostics, repair or replacement. In the event a student's computer is missing or damaged, ULS maintains a limited set of older notebook computers for use as temporary replacements. Loaner assignments are made on a first-come, first-served basis and for a limited duration (generally for one or two weeks).

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*Chromebooks have been designed for seamless integration with Google web-based apps and are most effective for single-user, dedicated use. Chromebooks can be substantially lower in cost than traditional notebook computers, but there are several design and functionality aspects to consider, which can differ considerably by manufacturer and model:
- Limited on-device data storage - user doesn't save data locally, but rather saves to the cloud.
- USB support - may provide optional peripheral drive/device connections.
- No optical drive [CD/DVD/Blu-Ray], but media access from Internet providers.
- No on-device applications, only cloud-based apps, like Google G Suite for Education, for instance.
- Optional touch screen user interface.

**Tablets may be better suited for consuming information, i.e. email, social media, videos. They are not well-suited for data creation unless equipped with a keyboard. We consider tablets to be an incomplete tool for most classroom assignments.