

## Bring Your Own Mac Parent and Student Information

Technology is an integral component of instruction at Shanghai American School (SAS) that enhances and transforms learning. A variety of devices, software applications, and web-based resources are used in effective, age-appropriate ways for students throughout each level of their learning. For students in grade 6-12, laptops are an essential tool for learning, and our Bring Your Own Macintosh (BYOM) program is designed to maximize educational outcomes across all subjects.

### Bring Your Own Macintosh (BYOM)

As part of their normal set of supplies, students enrolled in grades 6-12 at Shanghai American School are required to bring an Apple MacBook computer that meets SAS minimum requirements for both hardware and software. Students who are already using a MacBook at SAS may continue to use it as long as it meets the minimum requirements for hardware and software.

Students in the BYOM program will receive a network account to access the school's wireless network from any location on the campus once the school approves their new computer. The account will allow students to use school printers, share network resources, utilize on-line storage and communicate with others.

### Hardware and Software Requirements

All SAS students in grades 6–12 must bring to school a MacBook Pro or MacBook Air computer (less than 4 years old) with the most recent version of macOS. *Families may also choose to purchase a MacBook Neo for school use; however, we recommend doing so with caution. While the device performs well for everyday tasks, its performance may be more limited when running multiple or more demanding applications. Students taking courses or pursuing interests in areas such as Film, Design, or Computer Science may experience slower performance. For these reasons, a MacBook Air or MacBook Pro remains our recommended overall purchase option.*

Student computers must have a productivity suite that can save documents in standard Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) formats. Examples of productivity suites with this capability include:

- Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

- Apple iWork (Pages, Numbers, Keynote)
- OpenOffice
- LibreOffice

Students may also use online applications, such as Google Documents/Spreadsheets/Slides or Microsoft Office 365, although network connectivity may be needed.

**Additionally, students must:**

- have a method for backing up their data in the event of a hardware problem or data loss. Examples of backup methods include backing up to an external hard drive with TimeMachine, or synchronizing files to a cloud-based service such as OneDrive or iCloud.
- maintain the computer in proper operating condition (i.e. functional and without any damage preventing proper operation). Students who have AppleCare can access the services in the Apple Service Centers, often without charge.

Loaner computers are available for short periods of time (maximum 1 week) while required repairs are carried out.

To check warranty coverage for MacBook computers, please refer to the following link:

<https://checkcoverage.apple.com>

**Empowered User Agreement and Network Access**

All students and families will be required to agree to the SAS Empowered User Agreement (EUA) that will allow the school to install management software that will facilitate installation of software, school-owned software upgrades and network management. This process must be completed before the computer will be permitted to access the SAS network, including Internet access.

**Printing and Print Credits**

Students/families are required to purchase printing credit in order to be able to print on SAS printers. On both campuses, students may purchase print credits anytime during the day at the Tech Support office located in the Secondary School Library.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**What about special software used in classrooms?**

Specific software beyond the above requirements may be required for specific courses. In those cases, students will be directed to download free or open-source software or will be provided software by the school.

**Will the school still be able to take care of disciplinary issues related to these BYOM computers?**

Yes. Students and their parents are responsible for understanding and agreeing to the SAS Empowered User Agreement (EUA) that allows for computers to be searched, monitored and any disciplinary actions taken as deemed appropriate.

**Can I bring an iPad instead of a MacBook?**

No. iPads do not offer many of the content development capabilities that full MacBook's have, and we need to ensure that our classroom programs provide both continuity and consistency.

**Can I bring a computer brand other than a Mac?**

No. Other computer platforms do not offer many of the content development capabilities that MacBook's have, and we need to ensure that our classroom programs provide both continuity and consistency.

**How often can I upgrade my computer?**

You can upgrade your computer as often as you like, as long as you follow the guidelines set forth by the school regarding hardware and software.

**What if I don't bring a computer to school?**

Students who do not have a computer will be unable to keep up with the requirements in the classrooms and will fall behind in their work. A computer is a required supply for all students in grades 6-12.

**Since part of the school fee is covered by my employment contract, does a computer purchase for my student(s) represent extra costs for me?**

We are prepared to provide a formal letter to parents indicating that the computer is a required supply for the school. Parents may request a copy of this letter from the Admissions Office at [admissions@saschina.org](mailto:admissions@saschina.org).

**Do I really need to purchase AppleCare warranty? I've heard they are not that great of a deal.**

Purchasing an extended AppleCare warranty is strongly recommended, but not required. Having an AppleCare warranty allows students to have any warranty-covered repairs completed free of charge in the SAS Apple Centers run by contracted vendors. Without AppleCare, repairs can be costly and time-consuming.