



Dear 7th – 12th Grade Families:

For students to engage in all areas of the learning experience at Academy, *all 7th-12th Grade students are required to bring their own laptop computer and charger to school each day.*

Minimum Laptop Requirements:

The laptop may be either Apple Mac or Windows PC and must be able to access the internet, but it must include the following: i5 (dual or quad core) processor, 8 GB RAM and a minimum of 128 GB hard drive, 6 hours of battery life.

School-Provided Technology Resources:

In order to support our students' use of technology in their academic endeavors, we've assembled a collection of technology resources including the following:

- **Office365** – All students receive an “@wiredwildcats.org” school email address. This service is based on Microsoft Outlook and can be added to students' cell phones for instant access. Teachers will use these email addresses to communicate with students. Additionally, this service also provides access to Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and One Drive allowing students to create and modify these files without the need to purchase Microsoft Office.
- **Google Workspace for Education** - This suite of applications provides cloud-based applications such as Google Classroom, Google Docs, Google Slides, and a diverse collection of many other products. Also, a part of this suite is unlimited cloud storage through Google Drive.
- **RenWeb/FACTS** – This is our school management system that includes student and parent access to grades, homework assignments, attendance, and service hours.
- **Online Library** – Students have access to over 25,000 books and periodicals online to assist them with research projects.
- **Online Textbooks** – We continue to expand our use of electronic textbooks, including those with multimedia content.
- For students who want to get their laptops setup before the first day of school, we have a step-by-step guide at this link: [Welcome - Student Orientation - LibGuides at Academy at the Lakes](#)

All of these tools are web-based and are accessible from both home and school. We've taken great strides to ensure that all of these tools are compatible with the most popular technology devices, including both Windows and Apple laptops.

This device will provide a technical foundation for 21st Century teaching and learning at Academy. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our technology offerings, device compatibility, or purchase recommendations.

Sincerely,

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