



July 3, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians of our Middle School Students:

Good Shepherd Academy is very proud and excited to continue with our Bring Your Own Laptop program. Technology is no longer just a trend in education, but an absolute necessity in enabling each student to reach his or her full academic potential. This use of technology is an integral part of our day-to-day curriculum.

Each middle school student is required to bring his or her own laptop to school in September. We are very aware that this is a huge commitment for your family to make and we will continue to use this technology well. We encourage you to set up family rules for your child when using this laptop at home and/or at school.

For those students entering 6th grade, students new to the school and/or those in the 7th or 8th grades replacing their current laptop, below is a table with **required and recommended specifications for the device and carrying case**. These have been established in partnership with Insync, our technology consultants.

Device	Required Specs	Recommended Specs
	Windows 11 operating system*	Windows 11 Pro
	125 GB or higher	250 GB or higher
	Ram: 8 GB	Ram: 16 GB
	Battery life: 4 - 6 hours	6 hours or more
	Office 2010 or higher	Office 2019, 2021, 2024 or MS 365** (see purchasing section for discount rates)
	Keyboard (wireless accepted)	
Case	Backpack non-rolling	Additional Laptop Sleeve/Case

***Please note that Chromebooks do not meet our standardized requirements for uniformity in delivering the curriculum, troubleshooting and software installation. ***

****GSA will be using the Microsoft Office for Education & Teams platform. A GSA email account in MS 365 for Education will be created for each student. Please note that this version will be used for student collaboration at home and at school as well as for emails; however, it is not the full version of Microsoft Office. ****



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Will GSA purchase the devices in quantity for the students?

No, each family should purchase a computer for her/his child. Students are expected to have their laptops ready by September 3rd.

Purchasing

1. Laptops/Case

- a. There are many options for purchasing a laptop. Best Buy, Amazon, and many other retail stores have the laptops available for immediate purchase.
- b. If you prefer, there is also an option to purchase a laptop through our partnership with Insync Outsourcing Corp., our technology consultants. Please see attached flyer for details.

2. Software

- a. There are many options for purchasing Microsoft Office if interested in the full version.
- b. You have the option to purchase the Academic Licensing version of Microsoft Office 2021 for your one student device for a one-time fee of \$69.99 plus taxes. This software will be installed during the first week of school. Please see attached flyer for additional details.

Deadline: There is a deadline of August 19th for any purchases made through Insync. If you would like to take advantage of their offers, please call Insync at 201-313-7999 and mention the GSA partner program. Insync accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover.

Safety and Security

1. **Backpack & Labeling** – Students will be required to have a protective laptop sleeve, case, or backpack to carry their laptop during the day. It is strongly recommended that students use both the backpack and sleeve/case when carrying their laptops and books to switch from class to class. **All devices and power cords must be labeled. We also recommend that you write down the computer's serial number to keep in a safe place at home.**
2. **Digital Citizenship** - There will be opportunities throughout the school year for communications with both students and parents about technology usage and digital citizenship. We encourage you to begin these conversations with your children at home as well. Students and their parents will be asked to sign GSA's Acceptable Use Policy, as noted in GSA's Student Handbook as well as our Student Electronic Device Program Acceptable Use Agreement Form, both of which must be reviewed during the first week of school as required each year.



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3. **Anti-virus** – All students **must** acquire GSA's anti-virus software since they will also be using GSA's server. **Please note that Insync will have to remove any anti-virus protection previously installed on the laptop first, in order to replace it with our school's antivirus program.** The yearly cost of the anti-virus protection is \$20, which will be charged as a fee through Smart Tuition.

Student Responsibilities

Students will be expected to come with their computers fully charged each day. As a faculty, we realize that, at times, computers will be under heavier usage than others. There are charging stations on campus for occasional student use only. As power cords may differ with model year or type of computer, we ask that a student provide her/his own power cord for charging. Again, please label your child's power cord with his/her name. Please see our Parent/Student Handbook for more details.

Initial Set-up Fee for New Students and 6th & 7th Graders

GSA's technology consultants, Insync, will be available during the entire month of September for setting up student laptops. Dates will be published to the parents and students. Insync will set up server connection, secure Wi-Fi access, login, MAP Growth lockdown browser, remove and install anti-virus protection, and Microsoft Office if purchased through Insync. A \$20 fee will be charged for the initial set-up services. **Again, only new students, all 6th and 7th graders will be charged this initial set-up fee via Smart Tuition.** Please note that Good Shepherd Academy is absorbing half of the actual set-up costs.

Please note: if an admin password is needed to make changes to the device, please send it with your child in a sealed envelope addressed to Insync and labeled as Admin password. **No changes/updates can be made to the laptop if the admin password is not available.**

Troubleshooting

GSA and Insync will be providing the connection to the school's resources and network. If your laptop cannot connect due to laptop, virus and software related issues, you may require technical support from where you purchased your laptop. (For example, the laptop manufacturer or another service provider) Insync can provide an evaluation and quote on any repairs necessary to assist you in your service decisions.

While your permanent laptop is out of commission, GSA has a limited number of laptops that can be rented for a maximum of 3 weeks. The fee, charged through Smart Tuition is \$20 / week.

If you have any technical questions, please do not hesitate to call Michael Licameli from Insync at (201) 313-7999, or contact me at GSA's office number (973) 667-2049. We look forward to continuing this journey together!

Mrs. Laura Pita, M.A.
Principal

Any questions, please do not hesitate to email
helpdesk@gsanutley.org