



**BUCKINGHAM
BROWNE & NICHOLS
SCHOOL**

Student Laptop Initiative

Introduction

All 7th grade students are expected to own a Mac laptop that is brought to school each day. Any model of MacBook manufactured within the past five years will be fine. Families on financial aid may contact the financial aid office for guidance on financial assistance. For students that don't already own a MacBook, we have included purchasing advice below. We recommend the [MacBook Air](#) model of laptop due to its portability, but any model of Mac laptop will be acceptable. You can access information about the one-to-one student laptop initiative on the technology help site at: <http://computers.bbns.org> including the [brochure](#) sent last summer and the [slides](#) from our Parent Tech Night.



Advice on MacBook Models

We offer the following guidelines for those considering a computer purchase, but if your child already owns a Mac laptop there is no need to buy a new one. For most students we recommend the Macbook Air 11" model of laptop. This is a small, lightweight, moderately priced Mac laptop with decent battery life. The base model is currently listed on [Apple's store](#) for \$899. We think the base model (128 GB hard drive and 4 GB of RAM) is sufficient for most students' academic needs, but we recommend upgrading the RAM to 8GB for \$100. (This upgrade is an option when purchasing your system; it cannot be done after the fact.) Also, if your child wants to store more music and videos on the laptop, then a larger hard drive size would be better (e.g. the 256 GB model for \$1099). Some students prefer a larger screen than the 11 inch model. In this case, we recommend the 13 inch model. The MacBook Pro model of laptop has more features and speed, but it costs more.

Carrying Case

One of the most important ways to protect a laptop is to carry it within its own protective case. Allowing students to shove laptops into their backpacks (even in sleeves) can easily result in a broken screen or cracked circuit board due to the crushing nature of backpack loads. Any padded carrying case will suffice to eliminate this danger. The [Amazon.com Basics Carrying Case](#) for \$15 is sufficient.

Discounts or Special Pricing

We do not have any arrangements with Apple to offer discounts on computers for BB&N families. Apple does not offer discounts to students until they are in college. Employees of educational institutions receive a modest discount.

Back-up Drives

We recommend purchasing an external USB hard drive for additional storage needs, and/or to serve as a back-up "Time Machine" device. Any Mac-compatible external USB hard drive should suffice for this purpose. We would expect to pay about \$75 - \$150 for an external drive in the range of one to three terabytes (TB) of storage capacity. A money-saving alternative to this backup strategy is for students to back up all files to their BB&N Google Drive account.

Warranties & Accidental Damage:

Families should consider purchasing accidental damage insurance, or the AppleCare warranty. The AppleCare warranty covers the laptop for an additional two years beyond the standard one year warranty for any problems with the laptop other than accidental damage (including both hardware and software support.) Accidental damage & theft insurance covers damage caused by drops, spills, and theft. While homeowners insurance will often cover a laptop theft, the homeowner's policies may have a deductible higher than the cost of the laptop. Policies for accident & theft protection typically cost about \$70/year. One company that offers this type of policy is online at SafeWare.com.

Software:

At this time there is no need to buy any additional software. MacBooks come with the iWork and iLife suites of software from Apple, and BB&N students can download Microsoft Office for free from [our website](#). We also recommend installing free [Sophos Anti-Virus software](#).