

LAST UPDATED: February 24, 2017



Holy Names Academy Digital-Device Program: Minimum and Recommended Specifications for Devices

All students are required to bring a digital device to school each day to enhance their learning and prepare them for college and beyond. HNA students use their digital devices in all phases of the learning process, including research, problem solving, content creation, communication, and collaboration.

What type of device is required?

All students are expected to have a primary digital device that has the full capabilities of a laptop computer, such as the Microsoft Surface Pro line (Surface 3 or newer) or the Apple MacBook Air. Secondary devices such as the iPad, iPhone, Android tablet (Google), Chromebook, Nook, Kindle, or Microsoft Surface RT or Surface 2 will **not** meet our minimum specifications.

What platform is recommended for the HNA Digital-Device Program?

Because our students use Microsoft Office 365 resources on a daily basis for Outlook e-mail, OneNote taking, OneDrive cloud storage, and SharePoint access, we recommend a Windows 10 device. We have found Windows 10 devices integrate well with our technology. However, the Mac OS operating system has been successfully used by HNA students, and will meet the recommended specifications (next page).

Do we need to purchase a new device if my daughter already has a laptop computer or digital device?

If you have a laptop or digital device that satisfies our **recommended specifications** (see next page), then your daughter should have a device compatible with the school's requirements for the near future.

If you have a device that satisfies the school's **minimum specifications** (see next page), then your daughter's device should suffice for the 2017-2018 school year, but may need upgrading in subsequent years. Because of the speed of technology evolution, the school cannot guarantee that any device will continue to meet the minimum specifications throughout your daughter's years at HNA. The current specifications reflect available technology and our best effort at forecasting.

Once we have a device that meets the school's specifications, what about software?

Early in the summer, the school sends all new families a packet of detailed instructions for preparing the device for the new school year. Setting up the digital device for use on the school network will require 1 to 2 hours—depending on the speed of your home Internet connection. *All students must allow time for set-up before the school year begins in late August.*

Set-up, in addition to a free installation of Microsoft Office 365 (including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and OneNote), includes—at no cost to HNA families—a variety of software required for accessing and working on the HNA network. (NOTE: Families buying a new device for their daughter must have virus protection, but need not acquire any other software prior to setting up the device for the HNA network.)

Does the school provide help with set-up?

New families desiring assistance with setting up your daughter's device are welcome to attend a one-hour Set-Up Assistance Session at the school on either Tuesday, **June 27**, or Wednesday, **August 16**, in the evening (exact time TBD). The session is intended for the student and a parent. There is no charge, but advance registration will be required; all new families will be advised when registration opens.

See page 2 for specifications and recommendations.

RECOMMENDED Device Specifications (based on current available technology)

The digital device must have the capabilities of a fully functioning laptop computer. In addition, it should have the following features:

- Keyboard
- Processor: Intel 6th-generation or greater i-Series processor or Intel Core M processor
- RAM: 4 GB
- Storage: 256 GB (SSD drives preferred)
- Screen resolution 1024 x 768
- Battery life: 6+ hours
- Antivirus software: required
- Microsoft Office (currently free for HNA students)

MINIMUM Device Specifications (device less likely to meet requirements for four years)

The digital device must have the capabilities of a fully functioning laptop computer. In addition, it must have the following features:

- Keyboard
- Processor: Intel 3rd-generation i-Series processors, Intel Atom Series or equivalent
- RAM: 4 GB
- Battery life: 5 hours
- Storage: 128 GB
- Screen resolution 1024 x 768
- Antivirus software: required
- Microsoft Office (currently free for HNA students)

Is there a recommendation if I am purchasing a new device?

We urge you to do your own research, just as you would for any significant technology purchase. In addition to the following suggestions, there are several other options possible:

Windows Option: The Microsoft **Surface Pro line (Surface 4 or higher)** with Type Cover is the device HNA provides to its teachers. Students can get a 10% discount by purchasing directly from the [Microsoft Store for Education](#).

Apple Option: **MacBook Air** or **MacBook Pro**.

Other Possibilities: The following computer hardware manufacturers all offer digital devices that will meet the school's recommended specifications; be sure to verify that the particular model you select meets the HNA **Recommended Device Specifications** listed above. There are many options on the market, and this is only a list of suggestions:

- Dell Inspiron or XPS Series
- Lenovo ThinkPad or Yoga Series
- Toshiba Tecra or Portege Series
- HP laptops meeting the above specifications

Other Features and Considerations

- Touchscreen and stylus capability
- Protective case and/or backpack
- Warranty and accidental damage protection