Grade 9-12 Technology Needs
2025-2026 School Year

We are very conscious that implementation of our successful Apple 1:1 program depends on the support of our parents. We would like to express our gratitude to you, as you will be providing a laptop for your child to use at school.

Students entering grades 9-12 at HTS are required to have a Macbook laptop for school. Here are the specifications:

- The latest M4 Macbooks are the ideal machines for HTS.
- Screen size (13"-16") is a personal choice.
- It need not be a new device. Here are some criteria:
    - Any Macbook with an Apple Silicon M1, M2, M3 or M4 chip
    - 8 GB RAM minimum (16+ GB strongly recommended)
    - 256GB SSD Storage minimum
    - [Ability to run OS 15 (Sequoia)](#)
    - If you are repurposing a home device or buying refurbished, the following devices are problematic
    - Avoid Intel Macs. Apple has moved away from using Intel chips. The last 4 years have been their own chips (Apple Silicon M1, M2, M3, or M4) which are very powerful machines.
    - Devices that are 5 years and older may run into issues with updating the MacOS and/or may run into lag issues.
    - 5+ years old is not recommended.
- We recommend that students purchase an extra charger to keep at school in their bag or locker. Loaner chargers are not available.
- Students will need headphones with a built-in microphone for some school work. They do not need to be wireless. Inexpensive earbuds with a microphone are very suitable. Note, many bluetooth headphones have microphones with inferior clarity, buy these with caution, price is not an indicator of the quality of the mic.
- If you have a USB-C port on your device, you may find it helpful to purchase a USB-C to USB-A dongle/adapter.

- Students should have a good backpack or a protective sleeve in their bag to transport their device and prevent breakage.
- Please properly label all devices and accessories that are sent to school.
- HTS has an online store with Apple that you are welcome to use. If an education discount is available, it will be automatically reflected in the price you see.
https://www.apple.com/ca_k12nonbts_5005012/shop

Other useful information:

- There are no required apps to purchase. Students will frequently make use of the standard applications that come with an Apple laptop, including: Pages, Keynote, iMovie, iBooks and possibly GarageBand, as well as the Google Suite of Apps, including: Docs, Sheets, Slides, Classroom, etc.
- HTS purchases the Adobe Creative Apps for all of our students. This includes Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Premier Pro and many other exciting design applications. If a student does not already have these applications installed, they should wait for a late August email with a link and instructions on how to get started. The information will be sent to all HTS student email accounts.
- In early September, all students in Grades 9 and new students in grades 9-12 will receive several workshops around management of their devices. Teachers will continue this work by reinforcing the concepts in day to day work.
- Should a student need to borrow a laptop because theirs is being repaired, the IT department/teAch centre keeps a limited number of devices available for short-term loans. ***Students are required to have their laptop at school every day.***
- If a student is struggling to manage their device (eg. difficulty connecting to wifi) or hardware is not working properly, there is support available in the IT department/teAch centre. Students should visit the centre for help, or join our Virtual Help Desk at it.hts.on.ca. If necessary, we will help make the decision as to whether or not the repair needs to go to the Apple store.

Information Specifically for Parents

- If your child is new to HTS, look for an email from sstephens@hts.on.ca over the summer. It will contain an HTS email address for them, as well as information about accessing accounts. We will need you to pass that information along to your child.

- It is very important that your child has their own Apple ID, and they should know the password and have permission to manage their device.
- Please do not turn on device restrictions via the Screen Time panel. This can significantly decrease functionality for students.
- Set up a passcode for any devices, and discuss responsibility around keeping devices secured and the passcode secret.
- Talk about online safety and time management at home.
- Set some guidelines for appropriate use and consequences for improper use in your home. (Recommended Reading: *Screenwise - Helping Kids Thrive (and Survive) in Their Digital World* - Devorah Heitner PhD)
- Communicate with your child's teachers if you are concerned about technology addiction or challenges with self-management. We need to work as a team to support any challenges in this regard.
- For new families, we will provide family workshops in July and August with guidelines around accessing usernames and passwords and how to get your device ready for the first day of school. To book your session, please click here. It is important that all devices are on hand for these sessions and that at least one parent also attends.