Holy Names Academy Device Specifications

1. *What type of device is required?*

    1. **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 Pro 10 or newer, Surface Laptop 6 or newer, Surface Laptop Studio 2) or the current Apple MacBook line. *Note: Apple recently introduced the* <u>MacBook Neo</u>*. At this time, it has not been verified for compatibility with HNA's network and is not currently approved or supported for student use. This document will be updated once evaluation of the device is complete.*

        o **Important:** Devices powered by Microsoft Windows 11 in S Mode operating system must be switched out of S Mode: <u>Click here</u> for instructions on how to switch out of S mode.

        o Users now have two options for processors when choosing Windows devices: Intel or Arm-based. In the past, HNA has traditionally recommended devices with Intel processors. Students now have an option to select devices with Arm snapdragon processors. In testing done at HNA, devices with either an Intel processor or Arm snapdragon processor both work well in HNA's network, but be sure to review the **current limitations** below for Windows 11 Arm-based devices, <u>as listed by Microsoft</u>:

            ▪ Drivers for hardware, games, and apps must be designed for Arm-based devices. Most common drivers are now available, but specialized hardware or older peripherals might require verification for Arm64 compatibility.

            ▪ Peripheral compatibility depends on Arm64 drivers. Devices like printers and scanners work if their drivers are built into Windows 11 or provided by the hardware developer. Without compatible drivers, functionality might be limited. If the hardware developer lacks Arm64 drivers, try installing the printer through Windows settings. To learn more, see Install a printer in Windows.

            ▪ Certain games might face compatibility issues. Games that rely on OpenGL versions greater than 3.3 or on "anti-cheat" drivers not updated for Arm might not work, although many are being optimized for Arm-based devices.

            ▪ Customization apps might have limited functionality. Apps that modify the Windows experience, such as input method editors (IMEs) and cloud storage clients, might encounter issues unless optimized for Arm64.

            ▪ Antivirus software compatibility has improved but can vary. While many non-Microsoft antivirus programs now support Arm-based PCs, we recommend verifying compatibility. Windows Security continues to offer comprehensive protection.

            ▪ Windows Fax and Scan is not available on Arm-based devices. Alternative solutions are required for faxing and scanning.

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- o Current models:

  - ▪ Surface Pro Intel Models can be found here.
  - ▪ Surface Laptop Intel Models can be found here.
  - ▪ Surface Pro Arm Models can be found here.
  - ▪ Surface Laptop ARM models can be found here.

> **Not permitted or supported by HNA's IT Department:** Secondary devices such as the iPad, iPhone, Android tablet (Google), Chromebook, Nook, Kindle, Microsoft Surface RT, Surface 3 or older, Surface Go 2 or older, or Surface Pro X will **not** meet HNA's minimum specifications. These secondary devices do not support all the programs required during a student's four years at HNA. HNA's IT Department cannot provide technical support for these secondary devices.

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

Because our students use Microsoft Office 365 resources every day for Outlook email, OneDrive for cloud storage, and OneNote and Teams for collaboration, we STRONGLY recommend the use of a **Windows 11** device. From experience, we have found that most Windows 11 devices integrate well with our technology, and we have provided all faculty and many staff with Microsoft Surface Pro devices.

The **Mac OS** operating system has been successfully used by students and will meet the recommended requirements for our program at this time. *Note: Apple recently introduced the MacBook Neo. At this time, it has not been verified for compatibility with HNA's network and is not currently approved or supported for student use. This document will be updated once evaluation of the device is complete.*
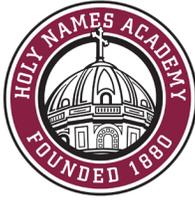
3. Do I need to purchase a new device if my daughter already has a laptop computer or digital device?

If you have a laptop or digital device that satisfies our *recommended* specifications (***see page 3***), 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 page 3***), then your daughter's device should suffice for the 2025-2026 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.

4. Once my daughter has a device that meets the school's specifications, what about software?

New devices must have virus protection (see below), but you need not acquire any other software prior to setting up the device for the HNA network. Early in the summer, the school emails all new families a packet of detailed instructions for preparing the device for use on the school network during the new school year. This will require about one hour, 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.

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In addition to a free installation of Microsoft Office 365 (including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and OneNote), this set-up for the HNA school network includes—at no cost to HNA families— a variety of software required for accessing and working on the HNA network.
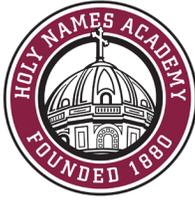
Virus protection required: Windows 11 devices ship with Windows Defender Antivirus software installed. Mac users will need to purchase virus protection. We have seen an increasing number of virus incidents on Mac devices.

5. *What are the recommended and minimum device specifications?*

- **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 Core Ultra Series 2 or Intel 13th Gen Core I5 M or newer Snapdragon® X Elite (10 or 12 Core), with OLED display or newer
    - RAM: 16 GB
    - Storage: 256 GB (SSD drives preferred)
    - Screen resolution 1920 x 1080 or greater
    - Battery life: 6+ hours
    - Antivirus software: required
    - Microsoft Office 365 (currently free for HNA students)
    - Windows 11

- **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 12th-generation i-Series processors, Intel Core M processor or equivalent or Snapdragon® X Plus (8 Core), with LCD display or newer
    - RAM: 8 GB is minimum, but 16 GB is preferred
    - Battery life: 5 hours
    - Storage: 128 GB (SSD drives preferred)
    - Screen resolution 1920 x 1080 or greater
    - Antivirus software: required
    - Microsoft Office 365 (currently free for HNA students)
    - Windows 11

> **Important Note:** Windows 10 will entered end of life on October 14, 2025. Any device still running Windows 10 after that date will no longer receive any updates, potentially opening them up to major security issues. If you have a device running Windows 10, it should be upgraded to Windows 11, if possible, or replaced with a Windows 11 device. Microsoft does offer extended paid support for Windows 10 as another option. Currently, the paid option would last for one year.

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- **ADDITIONAL Requirement:** The student must have Internet access at home, such as Comcast, CenturyLink, or similar provider. There is no requirement for cellular service.

6. Is multifactor authentication (MFA) required?

Yes, multifactor authentication is required for students to log into their account. This requires students to have access to a cell phone for notifications using the Microsoft Authenticator app (preferred method). Students without a cell phone should reach out to tech@holynames-sea.org for help with an alternate solution.

7. What is the 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 other options.

- **Windows Option**: The Microsoft Surface Pro line (Surface Pro 10 or newer, Surface Laptop 5 or newer, or Surface Laptop Studio) with Type Cover is the device HNA provides to its teachers. Students can get a discount by purchasing directly from the Microsoft Online Store.
- **Apple Option**: Current MacBook product line.
- **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, Lenovo, Toshiba, HP.
- **Other Features and Considerations:** touchscreen and stylus capability, protective case and/or backpack, warranty and accidental-damage protection.

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