

The International School of Latvia's Bring Your Own Laptop (BYOL) Program

ISL is a 1-to-1 laptop school in grades 1-12, and has been since the 2015-2016 school year. In reference to our strategic goals, one of our key objectives is to increase utilization of technology to further develop ISL as a 21st century learning environment. There is substantial evidence that using technology as an instructional tool enhances student learning and educational outcomes. Overwhelmingly, studies of laptop programs indicate many positive effects for students.

Studies indicate that students using laptops in school:

- are more self-directed in learning
- increase their research skills
- spend more time working collaboratively
- can present information more effectively
- improve problem solving and critical thinking skills
- have increased access to information
- have increased engagement in learning
- are engaged in more project-based work

(State of New South Wales, Department of Education and Training, Curriculum K-12 Directorate, 2009)

In an effort to meet these goals, the parents/guardians of all Secondary School students, grades 6-12, are required to supply their child with a laptop computer and a charger that can be used in school on a daily basis in the 2018-19 school year and beyond. Participation in the BYOL program is mandatory for all students of the International School of Latvia.

The system requirements for student laptops are as follows:

- ❖ Windows, MAC OS, or Chrome Operating System
- ❖ WiFi capable
- ❖ Attached keyboard
- ❖ USB and headphone jack
- ❖ Less than 4 years old
- ❖ Battery lasts at least 5 hours

The Bring Your Own Laptop program (BYOL) utilizes laptops exclusively, not tablets/iPads because of limitations with tablets that may prevent a students' full participation in the educational program provided at ISL. The International School of Latvia is not responsible for any damage or the loss of student laptops. Because of this, we strongly recommended that the laptops are either insured or covered under warranty for accidental breakage, loss, and theft. Students will be expected to operate their own devices independently. The Technology Help Desk will offer support for software issues but it will be the responsibility of the student and their family to fix any and all hardware issues. Students will also be expected to sign our [Acceptable Use of Technology policy](#) within a reasonable time frame or be temporarily banned from using their laptops at school.

All students will be expected to begin the school year with a laptop and bring it to school on a daily basis. Many families travel and may find it easier and less expensive to purchase a laptop during their travels. If you prefer to purchase a laptop locally, ISL has used Capital, a company based in Riga, as a supplier for a number of years. Their online store can be accessed by visiting <http://www.Capital.lv>. If there are any questions about purchasing a laptop or questions about whether the laptop your child is currently using ISL's requirements, please contact the IT Administrator Girts Martinsons (gmartinsonseisl.edu.lv) Please see the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section on the ISL website at <http://www.isl.edu.lv/faq>. You can also reach us via telephone at +371 6781 1193.