June 1, 2023

Dear JCA Student and Family,

We hope this letter finds enjoying your much deserved summer vacation!

As you know, the JCA is incredibly proud of its 1:1 laptop program. It means that we can move forward into the future knowing that each JCA student is receiving the best education that we can give. Our students will emerge from JCA with not only a solid academic education, but additional skills and knowledge that will help them stand out from the crowd as they enter higher education and the workforce.

We know that sometimes devices and/or stylus pens need to be replaced over the course of a student’s four years at JCA. If that is the case for you, here is some information that will be of help.

***Each JCA student is required to have a laptop computer, keyboard, and pen/stylus that meets the specifications set forth by the school.***We provide these specifications so that we can provide the highest level of security and the most functionality.

You have multiple options for acquiring a suitable laptop. You may order through one of the websites we suggest, you can find a new device on your own, or use one you already have on hand, provided it meets the specifications.

If you are only in need of a *replacement stylus* for your current device, please be sure to research what specific stylus/pen your device needs before purchasing one. A stylus is not universal and will need to have been made for your particular device.

**Easy Ordering with Suggested Websites or Bring Your Own Device**

For your convenience, we have partnered with representatives from Microsoft and Dell to suggest devices that we think would be a good fit for our JCA students, at multiple price points, to best meet the needs of our families. However, you are also welcome to purchase your device elsewhere. “Bring Your Own Device” minimum specifications can be found at the bottom of this document.

**Warranty**

Whether purchasing a device with Microsoft, Dell, or on your own, you will be given the option to purchase an extended warranty for the device that you choose. All devices listed here come with a one or two-year manufacturer warranty, but it does not cover accidental damage. **We very highly recommend that you purchase extended warranties that also cover accidental damage for all years of high school.**

A student device will be required for the duration of high school, and accidents and issues are likely to occur over those years. **Having a warranty in place that is purchased through Dell or Microsoft allows the JCA technology department to address issues and send a device out for repairs without burdening the family.** If you purchase a device and warranty elsewhere, you will be responsible for sending the device out for repair.

**Providing JCA with the Device**

All students who will be using a new/different device for the 23-24 school year are required to drop off the laptop computer to be set up by JCA. You can drop the device off in the main office anything this summer during office hours. Summer office hours are typically Monday-Thursday from 7 am- 1 pm. Please check the JCA website for changes in office hours, especially around holidays.

If the computer is new, please bring the laptop to JCA in its **unopened original box.**

**The Times We Are In…**

Due to production interruptions and increased demand, there is a global computer chip shortage that has far reaching affects in the technology industry. Unfortunately, because of that shortage, businesses and companies large and small find themselves having trouble keeping computers in stock.

So, while our websites have our suggested devices in stock at the time this letter is being written, that could change quickly and frequently over the coming months. You are welcome to use these sites, but if you find the device you want is out of stock, feel free to get your preferred device anywhere you can find it.

Prices are quoted as they are today, but are subject to change at any time based on the market, sales, and circumstances. We suggest purchasing your desired device early when you find it available, as it may become unavailable at any time without warning.

Students may not use any device that has not been set up by the school. (Also, no iPads, Macs, or Chromebooks are allowed. See below for additional details.) **If you are replacing the device during the school year, bring it to the Help Desk before using in school.**

We are here to partner with you as you search for a new device. If you have any questions, please contact Jeffrey Budz, Infrastructure Specialist, at jrbudz@jca-online.org or 815-741-0500, ext. 241.

Sincerely,

Laura Pahl  
Associate Principal

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**JCA Suggested Devices**

**Suggested Microsoft Devices:**

**Microsoft Surface:**

JCA’s number one preferred device is the Microsoft Surface. Its quality, speed, functionality, and inking capability are difficult to rival. All teachers at JCA provide instruction using the Microsoft Surface.

Surfaces have a reputation for being one of the best devices at this price point in the industry and work seamlessly with the many Microsoft programs that we utilize daily. It also has incredible inking capability, and the keyboard detaches to make writing easy.

**Surface PRO:**

* **Microsoft Surface Pro 9 Tablet:** Currently as low as $**1191** for 8GB/128GB tablet, type cover (keyboard), and pen on the Microsoft site by using the Education Discount (explained on How to Order page) Purchase Here: <https://bit.ly/3GTPZzB> – Click “Build Your Device”
* **Surface Pro 8, 7+, and 7 tablets are also excellent options.** Purchase here: <https://bit.ly/3MTaosp>
* **Please do not purchase the Microsoft Surface Pro X Tablet-** It cannot be imaged by JCA and therefore cannot be used at JCA.
* Surface Laptops are not recommended.

**Surface GO:**

* **Microsoft Surface Go 3 Tablet**- Currently as low as **$645** for 8GB/128GB tablet, type cover (keyboard), and pen on the Microsoft site by using the Education Discount (explained on How to Order page). Purchase here: <https://bit.ly/3oP4XB2> – Click “Build Your Device”
  + **DO NOT purchase the Surface Laptop Go.** It does not have inking capability and does not meet specifications required by JCA.
  + While the 4GB/64GB is available in this model, it will not have the memory needed for the programs JCA runs.
  + *The Surface Go 3’s screen is smaller than the Pro’s screen. Some students will be comfortable with that, others will not. Students will be required to access digital textbooks and take notes and complete assignments by writing on the screens of their devices. So, this device is a good fit for a student who would be comfortable doing all of that on a smaller screen.*

Find the right device for you by using this link to compare the options above: [Compare Surface Computers, Tech Specs & Models – Microsoft Surface](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/surface/devices/compare-devices/#:~:text=1%20%2A%20Type%20Cover%2C%20Surface%20Dial%2C%20Microsoft%20Office%2C,life%20based%20on%20typical%20Surface%20device%20usage.%20)

**Details about all Surface Options:**

* Be sure to purchase the required type cover (keyboard).
* Be sure to purchase the required Surface Pen. It does not come with the tablet. Be sure to get the correct pen that goes with the device you choose.
* Do not purchase Microsoft 365. That is provided by the school.
* Do not purchase virus protection. That is provided by the school.

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**Suggested Dell Devices:**

**Dell Inspiron**

* Inspiron 14 7425 2-in-1- Laptop and Active Pen currently as low as **$623** on Dell site
* Inspiron 14 7425 2-in-1- Laptop and Active Pen currently as low as **$833** on Dell site- (same device as above but comes with a $75 e-Gift card and 3-year Pro Support Plus Warranty- bundled to save on cost)
* Purchase at [www.dell.com/mpp/JolietCA](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dell.com%2Fmpp%2FJolietCA&data=05%7C01%7Caschertz%40jca-online.org%7C6add49ba579b45ae07c308db3f792f83%7C8b34eb37d0ec42a1bfe3a32eb988c366%7C0%7C0%7C638173562015179307%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=9xeqpQ%2B22JlGlfqr1tk6JaKWwTl10g0LkcMl5S5rSlw%3D&reserved=0)

**Dell Latitude**

* Latitude 7320 with Detachable Keyboard- Tablet, keyboard, and Active Pen currently as low as **$1,527** on Dell site
* Latitude 5340 2-in-1- Laptop and Active Pen currently as low as **$1,550** on Dell site
* Purchase at [www.dell.com/mpp/JolietCA](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dell.com%2Fmpp%2FJolietCA&data=05%7C01%7Caschertz%40jca-online.org%7C6add49ba579b45ae07c308db3f792f83%7C8b34eb37d0ec42a1bfe3a32eb988c366%7C0%7C0%7C638173562015179307%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=9xeqpQ%2B22JlGlfqr1tk6JaKWwTl10g0LkcMl5S5rSlw%3D&reserved=0)

**\*Options will be added and removed on the Dell portal as they become available/unavailable. Any Dell listed in our portal will meet the specs for JCA.**

Details about all Dell options:

* Some options come with a Pro Support Plus Warranty as part of the bundle to save you some money- This is a warranty that does cover accidental damage. We do, however, strongly encourage purchasing additional warranty years to cover all four years. Here is information about the Pro Support Plus Warranty <https://bit.ly/3GVzwuT>
* You will need to purchase the correct Active Pen that goes with the device you choose.
* Do not purchase Microsoft 365. That is provided by the school.
* Do not purchase virus protection. That is provided by the school.
* Please reach out to our Dell rep with any issues with the Dell site, questions about Dell devices, or customized quotes for other Dell devices: Lydia.Mccrummen@Dell.com

\*ALL third-party purchases (Amazon, Best Buy, other websites and stores), even if they are the exact models listed and/or Microsoft or Dell branded, cannot/will not be supported by JCA’s Dell and Microsoft reps unless they are purchased at the listed Microsoft website or JCA/Dell portal.

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**Bring Your Own Device Option**

**Your student is welcome to use a device that you already own, or you can purchase a device elsewhere, provided it meets all the specifications below.**

**Some important notes regarding the BYOD option:**

* All students are required to have a device, a keyboard (attached or detachable), and a compatible active pen.
* When choosing a BYOD option, the family takes on responsibility for ensuring a device meets all specifications set forth by the school. JCA is unable to check every device for all specs. If a device turns out to not meet specifications, that device cannot be used at JCA and must be replaced with a device that meets all specs.
* ALL third-party purchases (Amazon, Best Buy, other websites and stores) cannot/will not be supported by our Dell and Microsoft reps—even if the products purchased are Dell or Microsoft branded or JCA suggested devices.

JCA Specifications: (**Devices that do not meet these specs cannot be used at JCA.** We cannot check every device as it comes in and devices that do not meet specs may not be identified until after the device has been set up by JCA. Please be sure device meets all specs before turning it in to the school. If you need help determining if a device meets specs, please reach out to Jeffrey Budz at jrbudz@jca-online.org.)

* Capacitive Touch Screen (not resistive touch screen)
* Active Stylus Pen preferred (Capacitive is allowed, but inking capability must be high quality for taking legible notes and completing online assignments.)
* Windows 10 or 11 Based (Preferably Pro. Home is allowed)
* No Chromebooks, No Macs, No iPads
* 128 GB or more of storage
* Minimum of 6 hour battery life
* 8 GB RAM or more strongly encouraged – 4 GB may not be able to handle the programs required for JCA on some devices
* Laptop will be imaged by JCA, so save any files elsewhere before turning in to the school
* Laptop must be allowed to join our domain
* Meraki System Manager and LanSchool classroom management will be installed
* Microsoft suite will be installed
* Laptop must be available to be brought to school every day during the school year (not sharing devices with anyone else)
* Device must have keyboard attached or detachable
* It is VERY strongly suggested that if you purchase a laptop style device, that you ensure it lays all the way flat (like a 2 in 1 model). Inking (writing on the screen) is very often required for classes, and writing when a screen is in an upright position can be very difficult.
* Do not purchase Microsoft 365- It will be provided by JCA.

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**How to Order from Our Suggested Websites:**

**Microsoft**

You can order all Surface options at [https://bit.ly/2VDyfhW](https://bit.ly/2VDyfhW%20) (Direct links to several of the devices are provided above.) **PLEASE NOTE, this site will list many Microsoft devices. However, not all of them are allowed or suggested for use at JCA. Use the info above to determine appropriate devices. (Avoid Surface laptops and Surface Pro X.)**

You can compare devices by clicking on “Select this Device” for a few devices then clicking “compare.”

To order a device, click on the Blue name of the device to select and order.

You will get the best pricing using the education discount.

* Text

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Create a free account or use an existing Microsoft account.

Then, it will bring up the offers available to you as students.

Bundles are also available on the Microsoft site, but are not eligible for the education discount. Those are always options as well.

**Dell**

You can order Dell options at our Dell portal at: [www.Dell.com/mpp/JolietCA](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dell.com%2Fmpp%2FJolietCA&data=04%7C01%7Caschertz%40jca-online.org%7Ca24d593bfbc743fba28f08d9207f7ed1%7C8b34eb37d0ec42a1bfe3a32eb988c366%7C0%7C0%7C637576554272320791%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=1aKL%2FRWHyig4xkdgQi58od5X1ClIRfCYazFdKnEJ2Ks%3D&reserved=0)

Click the blue “View Recommended Solutions” button.

Device and Stylus are listed separately. Be sure to purchase an active pen, as it is required.

Note: **Options will be added and removed on the Dell portal as they become available/unavailable. ALL Dell devices listed in our portal will meet the specs for JCA.**