ISA has a bring-your-own laptop program for upper school students. Each student in grades 6 through 12 is required to bring his or her own personal laptop to school.

What are the minimum specifications for the laptop my child needs?

The most important specifications are that the laptop is less than 3 years old, light enough to easily carry back and forth to school, and with a pow- erful enough battery to be able to use it all day. Additionally, students must be able to install software on their laptop, so that they can run the important programs that each upper school department uses.

ISA recommends the 13-inch MacBook Air. That's the same model which ISA teachers and administrators use.

There are several Windows laptops which also have fast startup times, long battery life, and light weight. The Windows Surface Pro and the Sony ultrabook get excellent reviews. In order to make sure your Windows laptop can run all the required software, make sure it has Windows 10 or later.

Is there a way to get an educational discount on the purchase?

Amac is ISA's Apple vendor. They sell directly to the ISA community, extending the ISA discount to all students and staff. You can have your purchases shipped to your home address.

Login to: **https://www.a-mac.nl/isa/customer/account/login/**

To login, you need your child's student ID number. Username:
[studentID]@amacisa.nl
Password: ISA[studentID]

Can my child use a Smartphone, Chromebook, iPad, Surface RT or a Galaxy Tab?

No, your child needs a laptop which can run Mac OS X or Windows 10. The Chrome OS does not allow you to install programs. Tablets, iPads, and smartphones are great secondary devices. Your child is welcome to bring those and get them on the network. They often make excellent note-taking devices. It's very convenient to use a tablet or smartphone as a camera so that your photos sync to your laptop. However, students still need to have a Mac or Windows laptop.

How will students keep their laptops charged?

Hopefully, your child's laptop will have a powerful battery which can last all day. They may need to adjust some settings, like screen brightness, in order to maximize their battery life. In some locations, such as the library, there will be power outlets available for students to use. And in an emergency situation, students may be allowed to charge their laptops at the IT station. You may wish to purchase an additional charger for your child to have on hand in their locker, so that they don't have to carry it back and forth to school.

If I buy the laptop in the Netherlands, can I change the language to reflect what we speak at home?

Both Mac OS and Windows 10 allow you to change the system language. You can download multiple language packs and switch between them as you wish. It's a great way to personalize your computing experience and stay connected with your mother tongue.

If the laptop I buy has a Dutch keyboard, will I be able to use it when we move?

The Dutch, US, and International keyboards are very similar. The only main difference in keyboards is the placement of the Euro symbol. Ordering the US or International keyboards often results in longer delivery times. The Dutch keyboard is an international English-language keyboard and is the standard we use at ISA. It is so similar to the International keyboard that it should cause no problems in the future.

What sort of warranty or insurance should my family get?

When purchasing a costly device for your kids, insurance is an important topic. There is no single best answer, since each family has its own needs and situations. If you buy a Macbook, we recommend purchasing Apple Care.

Should we purchase Microsoft Office or any other software?

Each ISA student gets a Google Apps account which is an easy way to read, edit, and share documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and more.

If necessary, ISA students can get MS office for free through **Slim.nl**

Most of the software your child will need for class, including Autograph, Geometer's Sketchpad, Pasco Data Studio, Comic Life, WeVideo, Read-Write Gold and many others, will be provided as part of the ISA site license. You will not need to purchase these. License codes and download instructions are available on the **student software download website**. Students simply sign in with their Google account and they will get all the details and help they need. Students in grades 9-12 Science do need Microsoft Excel, which can be downloaded for free from **Slim.nl**

Can students print from their own laptops?

Students can use the school networked photocopiers. They simply go to Everyone Print and they can access the copy machines. There are many options, but most students find that the Driver Print option is the most efficient way to print.

Why did we choose bring-your-own over school-provided laptops?

The parent and student groups who advised the committee on the details of our laptop program strongly encouraged us to allow students the free- dom to choose their operating system. We also want students to feel a sense of ownership of their laptop. Reports from other schools indicate that when students choose their own laptop, they take better care of it and use it more effectively than in schools where students lack that sense of ownership and choice.