

Home Laptop Agreements

International School Bangkok Middle School

Prior to distributing laptops to 7th and 8th grade students on Wednesday, August 17, we require that parents have conversations with students on boundaries and expectations around computer usage at home (6th grade students receive their laptops later in the semester).

It is important for parents to set guidelines and expectations for computer use in the home and to continue to revisit those guidelines as their child matures and as technology changes. We remind you that you still maintain parental authority over how, when, and where your child uses technology in your home. Your support and guidance is critical as students learn to navigate their digital lives.

Below are seven suggested topics for discussion.

- Because the school needs one copy of the agreements, please make a second copy or take a photo of the original to keep at home.
- Please discuss these with your child and write the agreements in the space provided below each question.
- The student will return one copy to his or her advisory teacher by Wednesday, August 17, at which time they will receive their laptops.

Underpinning the following conversations, we agree the laptop belongs to the school and not the student, and that its major purpose is for learning.

What can the laptop be used for outside its main purpose?

Consider which, if any, games can be played; which, if any, social media applications can be used; for what purpose the Internet can be accessed. Also consider for what purposes the computer can explicitly not be used for.

Where and when can the laptop be used at home?

Consider public vs. private space, tech "curfew", and screen time vs. face time.

What does homework time look like?

Consider location, which applications can be open and which closed, how “break time” looks different from “homework time”.

Where and when does the laptop get charged every night?

Consider location, time, and fit into the child’s routine (after dinner, brushing their teeth, finished with their homework?).

How will digital life issues be communicated at home?

Consider setting expectations on how the student should respond if he or she comes across online harassment/bullying or inappropriate images, videos, or websites. Consider how they should approach you and how you should respond if they make a mistake online or break portions of this agreement.

How and when will you revisit these agreements?

Consider how you will adjust these agreements or create new ones if needed?

If your child has their own phone, you may consider using the questions above for setting phone usage guidelines as well.