Specs for Student Devices

For purchasing, Amazon.com, Newegg.com, Apple.com, and google.com/Chromebook are good places to start looking for purchases.

iPads

iPads have different models that go by generation.

- For iPad Pros (larger screen size, higher screen refresh rate, better internal hardware, more storage, most expensive model)
  Anything 3rd generation or newer

- For iPad Airs (These have a lot of subtle technical improvements from the normal iPads, but at a much higher price tag)
  Anything 3rd generation or newer

- For "regular" iPads (Not mini, air, or pro. These are the baseline model that would be the best for someone on a budget):
  Anything 6th generation or newer

- For iPad Minis (Smaller screen, but does not compromise performance or internal hardware quality. Slightly higher price tag than normal iPad)
  Anything 4th generation or newer

MacBooks

MacBooks go by their year of release date, rather than by generation.
Note that recently Apple released their own processor under the name "M1", rather than using a processor manufactured by Intel.
These newest M1-equipped MacBooks will be the highest performing, but the most expensive.

- For MacBook Airs (Smaller, more lightweight, less expensive)
  Anything from 2018 or newer

- For MacBook Pros (More expensive than MacBook Airs, but with much better internal hardware. Will likely last 2 or 3 years longer than an Air.)
  Also anything 2018 or newer.
    There are 13-inch screen models and 16-inch screen models, as well as models that have more
or less available hardware ports depending on what devices they'll need to connect to the MacBook.

For Windows machines:

Windows laptops come in a very wide spectrum of specifications, which can be overwhelming.
So, if you're looking to purchase a Windows device for the purpose of completing schoolwork, below are the 3 minimum specifications that matter the most for everyday performance.

128GB SSD (Solid State Drive) Storage
Do NOT buy a device with an HDD as the main storage device, Hard Disc Drives are becoming obsolete for this use. This will make the device have a much shorter lifespan and perform *very* noticeably worse. Note that some devices may have both, using the SSD for the operating system, and the HDD for mass storage. This is fine, as long as the HDD isn't the only storage device.

8GB RAM

Minimum 1.5GHz processor

For Chromebooks:

These are perfectly fine for doing lightweight schoolwork only and are incredibly affordable.
It's difficult to go wrong purchasing a Chromebook, as long as you get one released in the last year or so.

Keep in mind that these devices are running ChromeOS (rather than Windows or MacOS), which is considered a *lightweight* operating system.
This can be limiting in terms of what applications are supported by ChromeOS.
For example, something like Adobe Photoshop cannot be installed on a Chromebook.

But, for things like browsing the internet, or using Microsoft Office applications, these work great.

If you require further assistance, please contact TechSupport@jupiterchristian.org .