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To the students and parents of the first classes and to the lateral entrants in the school year 2020-2021

Basel, 10 June 2020

Re: notebook-based lessons in year 10 (first classes), 2020-2021

Dear students, dear parents, dear legal guardians,

There is hardly a university course and hardly a career left nowadays that does not require knowledge of computer technology, the Internet and the so-called new social media. No end to this development is in sight, on the contrary: computer- and web-based applications are increasingly being integrated into every-day life.

The Gymnasium am Münsterplatz accommodates this development without changing the syllabus or the general educational contents. In the school year 2020-2021, in accordance with the education department of Basel-Stadt's ICT strategy for secondary education II, an increased number of lessons in year 10 (=the 1st classes in the Basel system) will be taught using notebooks and web resources. This means that students will be using **their own notebook** or MacBook or convertible in class on a daily basis.

The advantages are obvious: students practise using ICT and, in this way, acquire knowledge important for their university studies and jobs later in life. Teachers can use modern forms of teaching, and tailor learning opportunities to students' needs in a more nuanced manner.

A purpose- and meaningful, self-confident and thinking use of computers and the Internet is an important goal of our profile. Tried and tested forms of learning and teaching are not banished from the classroom, but continue to play an essential role. In this way, students become increasingly aware whether and how, depending on the work phase, working with the computer and the Internet is of advantage.

Students use **their own (private) notebook/laptop/MacBook/convertible** in class (bring-your-own-device concept, BYOD). Although this device replaces some books and other materials students would otherwise have to take to school, school management nonetheless recommends a device that is as compact and light as possible in order to keep loads as low as possible. It is the students' responsibility to maintain their notebooks and keep them in working order.

In post-compulsory education, starting with year 10, the legal guardians have to pay for the learning materials. Legal guardians of students who, for financial reasons, do not have a notebook of their own and cannot buy one should please send an e-mail to the GM's IT project head, Mr

Stöckli (david.stoeckli@edubs.ch), by Friday, **26 June 2020**, and include in their message the reason for their request and their complete address as well as their child's future class. School management will then check whether the school will lend the student a notebook for free.

We are planning to introduce students on the first day of school to the use of the Internet and notebooks as well as the WLAN and the printing system of the Gymnasium am Münsterplatz. Therefore, learners are expected from the first day to bring to school a fully charged, updated and set-up notebook; this includes the software (see below) with the exception of Microsoft Office, which the school will make available to the students for free at the beginning of the school year. The following are not allowed: computer games, private chats and surfing the Internet for private purposes during class, as well as visiting websites that are nothing to do with the lesson or even indecent, or consuming such media (inappropriate pictures, videos, music). The breaks between the lessons serve the purpose of recreation; in these phases, the notebook remains switched off. The teachers and the ICT support team of the Gymnasium am Münsterplatz are allowed to carry out spot checks, and they make sure the rules are followed.

Students need a device that meets the following minimum requirements:

- a minimum screen size of 12 inches (recognition of stylus and fingers)
- active stylus for the touchscreen
- at least 8 GB RAM
- at least Intel Core i5 processor
- at least 128 GB (SSD)
- a fully adequate Windows-based operating system (Windows 10, not 10s) or an up-to-date OS-based operating system
- battery life: 6 hours
- an integrated keyboard
- USB port (2.0 standard)
- Bluetooth
- a charger lead
- headphone port
- WLAN support

Advice for Mac users and for owners of Windows notebooks without a touchscreen:

In principle, it is possible to work with a MacBook (Apple), although it may have some limitations (e.g. with Office programs). The above requirements apply. To work with a stylus, a graphics tablet must be connected to the computer (recommended: WACOM Intuos S BT for about CHF 100). Such a graphics tablet can also be used if the Windows notebook lacks a touchscreen with stylus recognition.

Using the following terms, you will find various devices that are both a notebook and a tablet with a touchscreen and that may be used in class: convertible, 2-in-1.

The Gymnasium am Münsterplatz does not work with any IT retailer and would therefore not like to recommend a shop. However, some retailers offer a student discount on request. On the shop website www.edu.ch, using the code 19MUE63, GM students can purchase several manufacturers' devices at a reduced price.

The software expected is the following:

- a current version of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) → learners will get free access at the start of the school year
- a common web browser (Chrome*, Safari*, Firefox*, Edge*, ...)
- a media player (Windows Media Player*, VLC Player*, QuickTime Player*, ...)
- a pdf-reader (Acrobat Reader DC*)

* *free software*

Project head David Stöckli is happy to answer your questions,
e-mail: david.stoeckli@edubs.ch

Kind regards,



Dr. Eugen Krieger
Headmaster



David Stöckli
Project Head

Other recipients:

- teachers of all classes
- deputy headmasters / deputy headmistress