



A Student's Guide for Bringing a Computer to Saint Mary's College



Information for Fall 2021

Last Updated: Wednesday, April 28, 2020



ResNet Computer Specifications

Recommended for Macs:

macOS version 10.14 or later
Intel processor (includes recent MacBook Air and MacBook Pro models)
or Apple M1 chip
4GB RAM or more
256GB hard drive or larger
802.11 n/ac wireless network capability
Microsoft Office 2016 or 2019

Recommended for Windows:

Windows 10 Pro **or** Windows 10 Home
or Windows 8.1 Pro **or** Windows 8.1
2GHz processor or greater, 2-core
4GB RAM or more
256GB hard drive or larger
802.11 n/ac wireless network capability
Microsoft Office 2016 or 2019

Recommended for IoT Devices:

802.11 n/ac wireless network capability
10/100/1000 Base-T Ethernet (built-in or adapter)
Ethernet cable (RJ-45 connector)

Requirement for Specific Devices:

All televisions, Apple TVs, and gaming stations (PlayStation, Xbox) must be connected via Ethernet for Internet access.

To Contact ResNet:

resnet@saintmarys.edu
www.saintmarys.edu/resnet

Computers are integral to the living, learning, and teaching experiences at Saint Mary's College. While there are more than 300 computers available in the residence halls, computer clusters, labs, and classrooms, there is no substitute for having a computer for your personal use. *A Student's Guide for Bringing a Computer to Saint Mary's College* will provide you with the necessary information to buy a new computer for college or bring an existing computer to campus that will best fit your needs and that will connect easily to the campus-wide network.

This guide outlines the specifications required to connect a computer to Saint Mary's College's network, access Saint Mary's accounts and features on Google Workspace for Education, and run network-related software as well as other standard software used by students. It also provides information to help you navigate through both the technical and personal options available to you when purchasing a computer.

When you purchase a computer, you need to spend quality time researching which brands, models, and options best fit your needs. This guide is here to help you find the best computer to match your needs at Saint Mary's College.

We strongly recommend that you wait to purchase a computer for college until you receive computer purchasing information from ResNet, which will be sent out in July. At that time we will be able to offer our specific computer recommendations for current Apple and Lenovo models to help make your purchasing decisions easier, and you will be able to take advantage of new computer models, educational discounts, and special "Back to School" sales that our recommended vendors offer during the summer.

ResNet Basics

Please read this important page, even if you read nothing else in this guide:

For the 2021/2022 academic year, ResNet plans to support the following operating systems:

- macOS version 10.14 or later
(includes Mojave, Catalina, and Big Sur*)
- Windows 8.1 Pro
- Windows 8.1
- Windows 10 Pro
- Windows 10 Home

Students who have computers with an unsupported operating system will be unable to receive technical assistance from ResNet. ResNet will assist students with the process of upgrading their computers' operating systems to a supported version if it is possible.

Computers with unsupported operating systems may not be able to connect to the BelleNet network in the residence halls, access Saint Mary's e-mail, use features of Google Workspace for Education, run Microsoft Office software, or access other necessary academic resources.

Google Chromebooks are not supported by ResNet, and a Chromebook will not meet a student's academic needs at Saint Mary's College. Chromebooks may have difficulties connecting to the network, and ResNet cannot provide any technical assistance if problems arise. Chromebooks are also unable to have most course-related software installed, including Microsoft Office and Respondus LockDown Browser.

ResNet provides basic support for iOS devices (including Apple's iPad and iPhone), including assistance with issues involving connecting to the BelleNet wireless network and setting up the device to access Saint Mary's e-mail. An iPad should be viewed as a complement to a student's computer, rather than as a replacement for a student's computer.

ResNet is unable to perform hardware repairs for students, regardless of the brand or model of device.

All televisions (regardless of brand), Apple TVs, and gaming stations (PlayStation, Xbox) are required to be connected to the DeviceNet network via Ethernet cable for Internet access.

** Apple historically releases a new version of their operating systems annually. ResNet plans to support the new version of macOS upon its release.*

Finding ResNet's Recommended Computers

In July, ResNet will make specific computer recommendations for current Apple and Lenovo computer models to help make your purchasing decisions easier. This information will be sent to incoming students' Saint Mary's e-mail accounts when it becomes available. You can also view our recommended computer models on our ResNet website at www.saintmarys.edu/resnet.

ResNet Frequently Asked Questions

What is ResNet?

ResNet refers to the team that provides technology support to students at Saint Mary's College. ResNet support is available to assist any student who requests our help with technology during the academic year. ResNet at Saint Mary's College provides:

- Wired and wireless network and Internet connections for every student living in the residence halls.
- 802.11n/ac wireless network and Internet access in all of the residence halls.
- Detailed instructions for connecting to the network.
- Free virus protection software for your personal computer (Bitdefender security software for Mac and Windows computers).
- Free licenses of Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus for Students (includes Word, Excel, and PowerPoint). Office 365 ProPlus offers full versions of current Microsoft Office software that can be installed on students' personally-owned computers and mobile devices.
- ResNet Computer Consultants (RCCs) who are available to assist with connecting your computer to the network and other basic technology questions. RCCs will also assist students with the removal of malware infecting their computers.
- The ResNet Office and the ResNet Helpline, which are staffed in the afternoons and evenings during the academic year by RCCs six days a week for immediate troubleshooting assistance.

Saint Mary's College and Information Technology also provide students with:

- A Saint Mary's e-mail account that is accessible from any computer, smartphone, or tablet with access to the Internet.
- Access to Google Workspace for Education for communication and collaboration tools, with unlimited cloud storage for e-mail and Google Drive.
- Disk space on our network (referred to as a "personal network drive"), where students can save their files. This space is accessible from any networked computer on campus, eliminating the need to carry flash drives or other media across campus from computer to computer. This network space is also backed up by Information Technology every night, which makes it a secure place for important papers and other files.
- Wireless network and Internet access in all of our academic buildings (including classrooms).
- Over 300 computers in our campus computer clusters - areas with networked Mac and Windows computers that have many popular and course-specific software packages installed on them. Any Saint Mary's student can use the computers in the clusters, and there are clusters available in the library, classroom buildings, and each residence hall. Many of these computers are available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Even if they own a personal computer, students will often work in the computer clusters because of the software and hardware available. The clusters also provide a study space away from the distractions of a residence hall room.

The Office for Student Affairs, in collaboration with ResNet, provides students with access to a loaner laptop that can be checked out for a period of time.

If you are in need of a loaner laptop, please submit your request to studentaffairs@saintmarys.edu.

How much does ResNet cost?

Saint Mary's College does not charge a fee for connecting to the campus networks or for any technical assistance provided by ResNet. The only costs students may incur include the cost of a computer that meets or exceeds the minimum requirements for ResNet access (including a supported operating system) and an optional Ethernet cable - all of which enable the computer to communicate on our network and be a productive resource.

Saint Mary's College does not provide assistance with hardware problems on students' computers, and students will be directed to computer manufacturers for hardware assistance.

Are students required to bring a computer to Saint Mary's College?

No, but owning a computer will greatly enhance your years at Saint Mary's College - both academically and socially. Students use computers daily to communicate via e-mail and messaging (text and video chat), access library reference materials, participate in on-line discussions, research information using the Internet, access syllabi and lecture materials, analyze data, register for classes, and write papers. ResNet at Saint Mary's College provides each student with a connection to our high-speed campus-wide network from her residence hall so she can conveniently accomplish all of these activities from her personal computer or other Internet-capable device.

What are your recommended ResNet computer specifications for 2021/2022 for undergraduate students?

Our recommended ResNet computer specifications for Mac computers include:

- 🖥️ macOS version 10.14 or later (includes Mojave, Catalina, and Big Sur)
- 🖥️ Intel processor (includes recent MacBook Air and MacBook Pro models) **or** Apple M1 chip
- 🖥️ 4GB RAM or more
- 🖥️ 256GB hard drive or larger
- 🖥️ 802.11 n/ac compatible wireless network capability
- 🖥️ Microsoft Office 2016 for Mac **or** Microsoft Office 2019 for Mac (includes Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus for Students)

Our recommended ResNet computer specifications for Windows computers include:

- 🖥️ Windows 10 Pro **or** Windows 10 Home
or Windows 8.1 Pro **or** Windows 8.1
- 🖥️ 2GHz processor or greater, 2-core
- 🖥️ 4GB RAM or more
- 🖥️ 256GB hard drive or larger
- 🖥️ 802.11 n/ac compatible wireless network capability
- 🖥️ Microsoft Office 2016 for Windows **or** Microsoft Office 2019 for Windows (includes Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus for Students)

Additional options for all computers include:

- 🖥️ 100 Base-T Ethernet (including 10/100 and 10/100/1000Base-T Ethernet) - built-in or adapter
- 🖥️ Ethernet cable (UTP, 10-Base-T, RJ-45 connector)

What are your recommended ResNet computer specifications for 2021/2022 for graduate students?

Our recommended ResNet computer specifications for graduate students in the Doctorate of Nursing Practice and Master of Science in Speech Pathology programs are the same as as our recommended ResNet computer specifications for undergraduate students.

The Master of Science in Data Science program may have system requirements that exceed our recommended computer specifications. The recommended computer specifications for the Data Science program will be shared by the program to its students.

Why are your recommended ResNet computer specifications so high?

Saint Mary's College has both minimum and recommended computer specifications. Computers meeting or exceeding our recommendations can be expected to meet a student's needs for four years. Most new computers will meet or exceed our recommendations. Computers meeting our minimum specifications will most likely not meet a student's needs beyond two years and may require hardware or software upgrades.

Computers are a major college purchase, and we hope that the computer you bring for your first year at Saint Mary's College will last throughout your four years here. If you purchase a high-end or "business-class" computer now, it will likely still meet your personal computing needs during your senior year. If you purchase a lower-end or "home use" computer, you may need major hardware and software upgrades, if not a new computer, before you graduate to meet your personal computing needs.

Computers, like most things, will last longer if they are of higher quality. This is why we recommend Apple and Lenovo computers. We know that they will work on our network, that they are reliable computers, and that students have had positive experiences with their warranty/repair services. During the summer, ResNet will make specific computer recommendations for current Apple and Lenovo computer models to help make your purchasing decisions easier.

If you are purchasing a new computer, please ensure that it meets all our computer specifications first, including a supported operating system, before considering the computer's physical appearance. We have had students purchase particular models of computers because they were available in their favorite color, but the color of a computer does not ensure that the computer will actually meet a student's needs. ResNet's specific computer recommendations for current specific Apple and Lenovo computer models will likely not match a student's favorite color, but selecting a colorful laptop case will give a student an opportunity to display her personal style and still have a computer that will meet her needs.

Should I get a notebook/laptop computer or a desktop computer?

Both notebook/laptop and desktop computers are welcome at Saint Mary's College. Approximately 99% of Saint Mary's students on ResNet owned notebook computers during the 2020/2021 academic year.

Notebooks have the convenience of portability. A student can take her notebook computer home on breaks and over the summer, and she can even take it with her if she spends a semester or year abroad. She can bring her notebook to the library and to other locations on campus where network access is available. Most students bring their notebook computers with them to their classes, and they also bring their computers when they go to study in locations other than their room.

Saint Mary's College has a wireless network, BelleNet, that is available for student access across campus, including the residence halls, Noble Family Dining Hall, Student Center, Cushwa-Leighton Library, and the academic buildings (including classrooms).

Students who plan to study abroad, who expect to participate in activities such as athletics, or who hope to have internships either away from campus during the academic year or away from home during the summer may prefer the mobility that a notebook computer offers.

Saint Mary's College does not have problems with notebook theft on campus. We strongly encourage students to use notebook locks to secure their computer any time they are not actively using it. Students should also lock down their computers when they bring them to publicly-accessible areas such as the library or while they are kept in their residence hall rooms.

Desktops are not portable, but they are less fragile, less expensive, offer larger monitor options, and have greater upgrade potential.

Should I get a Mac or a Windows computer?

Both Mac and Windows computers can be connected to our network if they meet the requirements listed in this guide, and both are equally supported on campus. The majority of Saint Mary's students prefer to purchase computers with Apple's macOS operating system instead of Microsoft's Windows operating system.

The decision to purchase a Mac computer or a Windows computer is a personal one. Regardless of major, Saint Mary's students will be exposed to both computer platforms while they are on campus.

One thing to consider when purchasing a computer is the prevalence and severity of malicious and unwanted software on computers. While malicious and unwanted software exists on both platforms, the quantity of malicious and unwanted software varieties for Windows computers is significantly higher than for Mac computers. Most threats on Mac computers are PUPs (potentially unwanted programs) that act as adware. Students with Windows computers will spend much more time removing malicious and unwanted software from their computers and spending time on preventative maintenance than Mac users.

Every residence hall on campus has at least one ResNet computer cluster with Mac and Windows computers. Public computer clusters also have both Windows and Mac computers.

What about tablet devices such as Apple's iPad or Amazon's Kindle Fire?

Devices such as Apple's iPad and Amazon's Kindle Fire should be viewed as complements to a student's computer, rather than as a replacement for a student's computer.

ResNet provides basic support for iOS devices (including Apple's iPad and iPhone), including assistance with issues involving connecting to the BelleNet wireless network and setting up the device to access Saint Mary's e-mail.

Microsoft Surface tablets running a full version of Microsoft Windows (version 8 or later) are supported as if they were Windows computers, assuming that they meet the other minimum specifications for ResNet support.

Amazon's Kindle Fire, Android tablets, and other non-iOS tablet devices are not supported by ResNet. In most cases, these tablet devices can be successfully connected to the wireless network on campus, but ResNet cannot provide any technical assistance if problems arise. These tablets will not meet students' academic needs at Saint Mary's College.

Google Chromebooks are not supported by ResNet, and a Chromebook will not meet a student's academic needs at Saint Mary's College. Chromebooks may have difficulties connecting to the network, and ResNet cannot provide any technical assistance if problems arise. Chromebooks are also unable to have most course-related software installed, including Microsoft Office and Respondus LockDown Browser.

Will any version of Microsoft Windows work on ResNet?

Saint Mary's College recommends and supports Windows 10 Pro, Windows 10 Home, Windows 8.1 Pro, and Windows 8.1.

All four of these versions of Microsoft's Windows operating system will meet the needs of students connecting a new computer to the Saint Mary's network. The choice between the supported Windows operating systems is up to the student, her personal computing needs, and the abilities of the purchased computer.

If you chose to buy a new computer running Windows, ResNet strongly recommends purchasing a computer that already has a supported version of the Windows operating system installed.

ResNet supports both Windows 10 Home and Windows 10 Pro. New computers with Windows will likely have either Windows 10 Home or Windows 10 Pro pre-installed. (Windows 10 Mobile is a version of Windows 10 available for smartphones and small tablet devices and that operating system is not supported by ResNet. Windows 10 S is a version of Windows 10 that has a locked-down configuration, but a Windows 10 Pro upgrade can be purchased to enable unrestricted software installation. Other versions of Windows 10 are also not supported.)

Saint Mary's College does not support any version of Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, or Windows 8. These operating systems are no longer supported by Microsoft, and as a result we are unable to provide support for them as well. Students bringing computers with any version of Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, or Windows 8 installed will be told to purchase an upgrade to Windows 10.

Do I qualify for educational pricing on computer hardware or software?

Yes. As a student at Saint Mary's College, you qualify for educational pricing with some computer and software vendors.

ResNet will make specific computer recommendations for current Apple and Lenovo computer models to help make your purchasing decisions easier. **Our recommendations for specific models will be available in July and will be both listed on our ResNet website, ResNet Facebook page, and e-mailed to incoming Saint Mary's students. We strongly encourage you to wait until this information is available from us before purchasing a computer for college.** The pricing for our recommended models will include educational discounts and any special offers the vendors may offer.

Saint Mary's College offers *Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus for Students* for free to our students. Office 365 ProPlus offers full versions of current Microsoft Office software that can be installed locally on students' personally-owned computers and mobile devices. Licenses for the software can be requested online by active students during orientation and when classes are in session for the academic year. After a license has been assigned, a Saint Mary's student can install Office 365 ProPlus software on up to five personally-owned devices. The Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus for Students license will expire automatically immediately after a student's active affiliation with Saint Mary's College ends (this includes graduation).

What is Microsoft Office 365?

Saint Mary's College offers *Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus for Students* for free to all current Saint Mary's students.

Office 365 ProPlus offers full versions of current Microsoft Office software that can be downloaded and installed locally on students' personally-owned computers and mobile devices.

Office 365 ProPlus provides the current version of Microsoft Office when you install it locally on your computer. Previous versions of Microsoft Office may be available at Microsoft's discretion. This includes Microsoft Office 2019 and Microsoft Office 2016.

The Office 365 ProPlus software can be installed on up to five devices that you personally own. Computers, iPhones and iPads, Android phones, Microsoft 8 and Windows RT tablets, and Windows phones are all devices eligible to have Microsoft Office 365 software installed. A list of system requirements necessary for Microsoft software, including software available through Office 365 ProPlus, is available at <http://www.saintmarys.edu/resnet/resnetfaq/microsoftspecs.html>.

Only current Saint Mary's students (undergraduate and graduate) are eligible for the Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus for Students license. The Office 365 ProPlus software will expire automatically immediately after your student affiliation with Saint Mary's College ends. Your student affiliation with Saint Mary's College ends if you leave the College for any reason, including graduation. At expiration, the software will enter a reduced-functionality mode (files can be viewed but it will not be possible to edit or create new files) and the OneDrive associated with your Saint Mary's account will no longer be accessible.

Licenses for the software can be requested online by active students during orientation and when classes are in session for the academic year.

When should I buy a new computer?

We strongly recommend that students wait to purchase a computer until you receive computer purchasing information from ResNet, which will be sent out in July. At that time we will be able to offer our specific computer recommendations for current Apple and Lenovo models to help make your purchasing decisions easier, and you will be able to take advantage of new computer models, educational discounts, and special "Back to School" sales our vendors offer during the summer.

Our recommended Apple and Lenovo computer models will be listed on our ResNet website at www.saintmarys.edu/resnet. This information will be sent to incoming students' Saint Mary's e-mail accounts and posted on our ResNet Facebook page when it becomes available.

What if I already own a computer?

If you already own a computer that meets the minimum specifications listed, it should connect to the campus network.

- A Mac computer with an Intel processor running Mac OS X version 10.14, at least 4GB of RAM, a 128 GB hard drive, an installed 10/100Base-T Ethernet card (for a wired network connection), and an 802.11g/n/ac wireless network access compatibility meets the minimum requirements need to connect to our network.
- A computer running Windows 8.1 or later, at least 4GB of RAM, a 128 GB hard drive, an installed 10/100Base-T Ethernet card, (for a wired network connection), and an 802.11g/n/ac wireless network access compatibility meets the minimum requirements need to connect to our network.

These minimum specifications are necessary to access Google Workspace for Education (which includes Saint Mary's e-mail accounts), and are enough for a computer to run the current available version of Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus for Students.

Computers meeting the minimum requirements may connect to our network and check e-mail, but may not be able to run all of the course-related software provided or access all of the networked College systems. Computers meeting only the minimum specifications will most likely not meet a student's needs beyond two years.

If your computer does not meet these specifications, you may need to upgrade its software or components for compatibility with the campus network and communication tools or purchase a new computer.

How do I find out the specifications of my current computer?

Instructions for checking the system specifications for your personal computer (running macOS, Windows 10, or Windows 8.1) are available at www.saintmarys.edu/resnet/checkingspecs.html.

How large of a hard drive do I really need?

A hard drive of at least 256GB is our recommended size due to our recent experiences with students. During the past four academic years, we've had students bring new computers to campus with only 128GB of storage space and then been frustrated because they run out of space to save their files before their computer is a year old. The students were not frivolously using up space - it was being legitimately used by the software programs they needed and the assignments they had completed. We would recommend that you consider an option with the largest reasonable storage capacity available so you do not encounter this same issue.

Will my computer need an Ethernet connection?

The answer depends on how you plan to use your computer while you are on campus.

Students can have their computers registered on BelleNet (wireless) and DeviceNet (wired) in the residence halls simultaneously, and use the network connection that is best suited for their current activities.

If you plan to use your computer for video streaming, online gaming, or transmitting large amounts of data over the Internet consistently, a wired Ethernet connection will provide the fastest and most reliable connection.

If you plan to use your computer for general web browsing and occasional video streaming, just connecting to the wireless BelleNet network will meet your needs.

Manufacturers are moving away from having Ethernet built-in because it impacts the size and weight of notebook computers. For computers without Ethernet built-in, we recommend purchasing a compatible Ethernet adapter to enable those computers to be able to connect to the DeviceNet wired network in the residence halls.

Students will need to purchase an Ethernet cable, which can be purchased at the Shaheen Bookstore (on campus), Best Buy, Amazon, or other major retailers that sell technology accessories. We recommend a 25-foot cable so it will be long enough no matter how a student configures her residence hall room each year.

All televisions (regardless of brand), Apple TVs, and gaming stations (PlayStation, Xbox) are required to be connected to the DeviceNet network via Ethernet cable for Internet access.

There is a DeviceNet wireless network available in the residence halls to accommodate devices such as digital personal assistants (Amazon Alexa, Google Home).

What software will I need?

All of the applications required to connect to the campus network, e-mail, and the Internet will be made available to each student at no charge to install on her personal computer.

Saint Mary's College strongly recommends that students use Microsoft Office (which includes Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) while on campus. Saint Mary's College offers Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus for Students for free to our students, which includes full versions of current Microsoft Office software that can be installed on students' personally-owned devices. Using Microsoft Office rather than other word

processing, spreadsheet, and presentation software packages is strongly recommended because it is compatible with our public computers and is also used by faculty and administrators at the college.

The computers in Saint Mary's computer clusters and classrooms will have Microsoft Office 2019 for Mac and Microsoft Office 2019 for Windows installed for the 2021/2022 academic year.

A list of system requirements necessary for Microsoft software, including software available through Office 365 ProPlus, is available at www.saintmarys.edu/resnet/resnetfaq/microsoftspecs.html.

Some courses will require specific software to complete assignments. While software licensing restrictions vary, the software is usually made available to students as a free download or it is available for use in the computer clusters and classrooms on campus.

How can I protect my computer from viruses and malware?

Saint Mary's College requires all computers connected to BelleNet to have anti-virus/anti-malware/security software installed and kept up to date. We provide Bitdefender security software for Windows and macOS at no charge for all students to install on their personal computers.

If a computer on BelleNet is infected with a virus or malware (malicious software) and attempts to spread the infection on the network, it will be disconnected from the network (including Internet, e-mail, network drives) until the offending software has been removed and ResNet has verified that the computer is clean. This is done to reduce the number of infections on the network and the impact the infections may cause.

How can I protect my computer from theft?

Saint Mary's College does not have problems with computer theft when students take reasonable precautions. ResNet strongly recommends that students lock their residence hall rooms and purchase laptop locks for their notebook computers. A basic laptop lock is a coated steel cable that connects to the computer through a special slot (the slot is standard on most current laptops) and secures the computer to a large or immobile object, such as a desk. Laptop locks are available with keys (recommended) or with combinations. Laptop locks with alarms or other special features are unnecessary.

How can I protect my computer from damage?

Saint Mary's College strongly recommends that you purchase an extended warranty from the manufacturer to cover the life of the computer (three or four years). Depending on the brand of computer and the coverage available, this can provide technical assistance with hardware and software problems that may occur during the time you own your computer. Saint Mary's College is unable to provide assistance with hardware problems on students' computers, and students will be directed to the computer manufacturer for hardware assistance.

Saint Mary's College also recommends that students' computers be added to their families' home owner's or renter's insurance policies. The coverage may be an additional cost, but depending on the policy, it may cover issues such as a broken screen, spilled liquid in the computer, or problems stemming from dropping the computer that the computer warranty may not cover. Please contact your insurance company for more information.

Will there be help available for connecting to the BelleNet network?

Yes!

During the beginning of the academic year at Saint Mary's College, ResNet distributes information packets (referred to as the "Purple Packet") to all incoming students with instructions for connecting to the campus network. Students are encouraged to set up their own computers, and most students are able to easily connect their personal computers to the Saint Mary's College network with the instructions provided. ResNet Computer Consultants (RCCs) are available during orientation and throughout the academic year to provide individual assistance when necessary.

Please do not attempt to configure your computer for network connectivity at Saint Mary's before you arrive on campus and receive the instructions for connecting to BelleNet and/or DeviceNet.

Can non-computer devices be connected to the BelleNet network?

In addition to computers, students can connect 802.1x-compatible devices such as smartphones and tablets to the BelleNet network.

Devices that are not 802.1x-compatible, but need Internet connectivity, can be connected to the DeviceNet network in the residence halls. DeviceNet offers both wired and wireless connections, but limitations are in place for specific devices.

Digital personal assistants, such as the Amazon Echo and Amazon Echo Dot, are a popular type of device that can connect to the DeviceNet wireless network.

All televisions (regardless of brand), Apple TVs, and gaming stations (PlayStation, Xbox) are required to be connected to the DeviceNet network via Ethernet cable for Internet access.

Google Chromecast devices are not compatible with the DeviceNet network on campus.

ResNet is unable to guarantee that every "Internet of Things" device will be able to successfully access the Internet via the DeviceNet network on campus even after it has been registered. Many of these IoT devices were designed for home networks, and not for enterprise networks such as the one at Saint Mary's College. Some brands of smart plugs (Kasa), light bulbs (Kasa), Lovebox, Friendship Lamps, and Hatch Restore devices are known to not successfully connect.

Will I need my own printer?

Students do not need to bring personal printers to campus. Laser printers are available in most of the computer clusters and classrooms on campus. Students are also able to print from their personally-owned devices to the printers in the Trumper Computer Center, which is accessible 24/7 when classes are in session.

Some Saint Mary's students prefer to own a personal printer for convenience. If they are brought to campus, personal printers will need to be connected via USB cable. Network printing (wired or wireless) to personally-owned printers is not available in the residence halls.

Does ResNet support or provide wireless Internet access everywhere on campus?

Saint Mary's College has an 802.1x wireless network, BelleNet, that is available across campus, including the residence halls, Noble Family Dining Hall, Student Center, Cushwa-Leighton Library, and the academic buildings (including classrooms).

Students may not connect their own personal wireless access points, routers, or other wireless network sharing devices in the residence halls because of the problems they create on our network. Students who connect wireless access points or similar items in the residence halls may lose their network connection until their personal wireless access points have been permanently disconnected.

Students should not use their personal mobile devices as hotspots while they are on campus. Activating a mobile device as a hotspot while on campus can negatively impact the wireless connections of your other devices and the devices of others near you.

What kind of wireless networking would I need to connect to BelleNet, the Saint Mary's wireless network?

BelleNet is the 802.1x wireless network available across campus.

To connect to BelleNet, you would need an 802.1x-compatible device, which includes most computers, smartphones, and tablets.

The BelleNet network in the academic buildings (including classrooms) has 802.11g, 802.11n, and 802.11ac access points, and is compatible with 802.11g, 802.11n, and 802.11ac wireless networking standards.

The BelleNet network in the residence halls has 802.11n and 802.11ac access points, and is compatible with 802.11g, 802.11n, and 802.11ac wireless networking standards.

802.11a wireless network devices will not connect to the BelleNet wireless network on campus.

Can I use my existing e-mail account (AOL, Gmail, Yahoo, etc.) while at Saint Mary's College?

All students are automatically given a Saint Mary's e-mail address, and this address can be used to send and receive e-mail anywhere in the world. A student must use her Saint Mary's e-mail account for all e-mail correspondence with Saint Mary's College, including with faculty and staff. If a student uses a personal account (AOL, Gmail, Yahoo, etc.) to e-mail a faculty or staff member, the faculty or staff member may not respond. Notices regarding College closings, severe weather, and other emergencies will be distributed only to Saint Mary's e-mail accounts. Access to non-Saint Mary's e-mail accounts is not blocked, and students are welcome to use those accounts for personal communication if they wish.

Saint Mary's College uses Google Workspace for Education for e-mail and collaboration tools, and our students enjoy unlimited quota for e-mail and Google Drive.

Should I buy an external hard drive for backing up my data?

Students are responsible for backing up their own data on their computer. The ResNet Office can guide students through the process of backing up data but will not complete the backup process for students. There are several backup programs available that simplify and automate the process, including Apple's Time Machine, and Microsoft's File Recovery/File History (which are included with our recommended macOS and Windows operating systems), that use external hard drives to back up your files.

Saint Mary's College recommends the Western Digital Passport drives for their reliability, portability, and ease of use. The Information Technology staff use various Western Digital external hard drives, and Western Digital drives are available for purchase on Amazon and at the Shaheen Bookstore. You should buy an external hard drive that is at least the same capacity as your computer's hard drive, and additional capacity is recommended to allow for multiple backups of your data.

Do you allow music/video downloads on the BelleNet and DeviceNet networks?

Students are welcome to use Apple's iTunes, Amazon, Netflix, Spotify, Disney+, and other legal sources to download or stream music and videos on the BelleNet and DeviceNet networks.

Saint Mary's College does not permit students to use P2P (peer-to-peer) file sharing applications or even have such software installed on their personal computers if they wish to connect to BelleNet or DeviceNet.

Saint Mary's College receives multiple cease-and-desist letters annually from the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), and other copyright holders regarding students who are downloading/sharing/serving copyrighted materials on our campus. If Saint Mary's College is notified by a copyright holder (or their designate) that a student is offering copyrighted materials for download, the student's network connection will be disabled to ensure immediate compliance with the copyright holder's request. The student will be contacted by Student Affairs regarding the situation. The student's network connection will only be re-enabled after authorization is given by Student Affairs.

If subpoenaed, the College is required to provide a student's personal information to the copyright holder so that individual/entity may take possible legal action against her. Penalties for violating copyright law could range as high as \$250,000 and five years in prison and/or up to \$150,000 per copyrighted work distributed without permission.

Is information about ResNet available online?

Yes! This guide and additional information about ResNet at Saint Mary's College are available on the ResNet website at <http://www.saintmarys.edu/resnet>.

Whom Do I Contact If I Have Questions?

Additional information about ResNet at Saint Mary's College can be found on the ResNet website at <http://www.saintmarys.edu/resnet>.

You are also welcome to contact ResNet directly at resnet@saintmarys.edu or 574-284-5319.

Questions can also be sent to Kathy Hausmann, Associate Director of Technology Support Services, at kathy@saintmarys.edu.

ResNet Shopping Guide

We strongly recommend that students wait to purchase a computer until you receive computer purchasing information from ResNet, which will be sent out in July.

At that time we will be able to offer our specific computer recommendations for current Apple and Lenovo models to help make your purchasing decisions easier, and you will be able to take advantage of new computer models, educational discounts, and special "Back to School" sales our vendors offer during the summer.

Our recommended ResNet computer specifications for Mac computers include:

- 📍 macOS version 10.14 or later
- 📍 Intel processor (includes recent MacBook Air and MacBook Pro models) **or** Apple M1 chip
- 📍 4GB RAM or more
- 📍 256GB hard drive or larger
- 📍 802.11n/ac wireless network capability
- 📍 Microsoft Office 2016 or 2019 for Mac (includes Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus for Students)

Our recommended ResNet computer specifications for Windows computers include:

- 📍 Windows 10 Pro **or** Windows 10 Home
or Windows 8.1 Pro **or** Windows 8.1
- 📍 2GHz processor or greater, 2-core
- 📍 4GB RAM or more
- 📍 256GB hard drive or larger
- 📍 802.11n/ac wireless network capability
- 📍 Microsoft Office 2016 or 2019 for Windows (includes Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus for Students)

Recommended for IoT Devices:

- 📍 802.11n/ac wireless network capability
- 📍 100 Base-T Ethernet (including 10/100 and 10/100/1000Base-T Ethernet) - built-in or adapter
- 📍 Ethernet cable (UTP, 10-Base-T, RJ-45 connector)

Requirement for Specific Devices:

- 📍 All televisions, Apple TVs, and gaming stations (PlayStation, Xbox) must be connected via Ethernet for Internet access. Students will need to provide their own Ethernet cables for these devices.

To Contact ResNet:

- 📍 resnet@saintmarys.edu
- 📍 574-284-5319
- 📍 www.saintmarys.edu/resnet