

Considering Buying or Bringing Your Own Device to School?



This school will have a reliable, filtered, wireless network that students will be able to connect to with their own devices. While this device could be an iPod, iPad or a Netbook, there are a few key things you should keep in mind if you are considering bringing your own device to school.

Crestomere School SSDZ Project

Q Why is a good battery life an important consideration when selecting a notebook for school?

A First and foremost battery life is the most important feature to consider when buying a mobile device since there will be limited place in the school to securely charge your device. Typical Netbooks come advertised with 3-cell or 6-cell batteries, but the more important number is the Milliamp Hour (mAh). mAh is important because it's the easiest way to determine the strength or capacity of a battery. The higher the mAh, the longer the battery will last. Look for a battery rated at 6600 mAh or higher. You may regret purchasing a cheaper 3-cell, 2200 mAh battery if it's sitting in your backpack every afternoon because the battery is dead.

Q Why is the feature set a consideration when purchasing a Netbook?

A Pick a Netbook that has all the features you need, not only for school, but for personal use. Consider, the number of USB ports, FireWire Ports, Integrated web camera, external jacks for microphones and headphones, Hard drive size is also a consideration if you intend to store legally downloaded music or video files.



Q Why is the operating system a consideration when selecting a Netbook?

A Many of these Netbooks come with low cost or free operating systems; not all come with Windows or Mac operating systems. Try to pick a device that comes with an operating system you are comfortable with. This is especially important if the system should completely crash and require a rebuilding of the operating system.

Note: All school-owned computers are Windows-based; however, students can bring devices with either Windows or Mac operating systems.

Q Why is storage capacity a consideration when purchasing a Netbook?

A Student-owned wireless devices will be able to connect to the school's wireless network; however, the devices may *not always have successful access* to the schools server and printers. This means that we recommend that you choose a Netbook with a hard drive with a capacity of at least 60 GB and a rotational speed of 5400 rpm.

Q Why is the wireless network card a consideration when purchasing a Netbook?

A Your device will not only be connecting to your home network, but it will be connecting to the wireless network at the school and you must have a wireless network card to do so.

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Top things to consider when purchasing a Netbook:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good Battery Life	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feature Set
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enough Memory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Warranty
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Keyboard Layout & Size	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Price
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Screen Size & Make Up	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Weight
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Storage Capacity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wireless Ability
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Operating Systems	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Processor

Q Why is having enough memory a consideration when purchasing a Netbook?

A The amount of memory is a moving target and depends mostly on 4 things:

1. The operating system chosen
2. The virus protection suite chosen
3. The kind of application you are running
4. The number of applications running simultaneously. As a general rule 512 KB or RAM is NOT enough; pick a system that has at least 1 MB of RAM that is expandable to 3.

Note: *Up to date virus protection will be required on all devices connecting to the WCPS network.*

Q Why is the screen size important when purchasing a Netbook?

A Many users find 9 inch displays the smallest they can comfortably use. Depending on the size of your hands, the smaller keyboard could be an advantage or a big inconvenience. Try out a few first.



Q Why is the keyboard layout and size a consideration when purchasing a Netbook?

A Some of the smaller Netbooks have an extremely compressed keyboard; the keyboard size is usually relative to the screen size. Most people prefer the larger keyboard; 10 inch notebooks have the larger keyboards, some of them as large as 30% of a full size keyboard. Another thing to consider is the mouse pad and mouse key locations. Before purchasing a laptop, give it a good test run in the store to make sure you like the layout.

Q Why is the weight a consideration when purchasing a Netbook?

A Depending on what you are planning to do with your new Netbook, you might end up carrying it all day. Generally the lighter the Netbooks have less battery life. Most Netbooks as of May 09 seem to be 3.5 lbs or less.

Q Why is the processor a consideration when purchasing a Netbook?

A At this time the Intel Atom processor is the fastest and most energy efficient processor you can get in a Netbook. Don't be distressed when you review a Netbook's technical specs. The CPU details are not misprints. While your desktop PC may boast a 2.83 GHz quad-core CPU, Netbooks are much smaller by comparison.