

May 1, 2009

Dear Rising Tenth Grade Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the Upper School laptop program and to remind you that your child will need a laptop for school upon entering the tenth grade. Presently, computer use is required in nearly all university programs and professions, thus having constant access in high school will better prepare students for their evolving future. The laptop program gives every Out-of-Door student access to information and a powerful tool that adds educational value well beyond the classroom. The program actively supports and promotes student learning by providing an experience that is seamless, ubiquitous and natural. Having personally owned laptops allows for the expansion of opportunities for student research, communication, creativity and collaboration. In addition, the program provides their teachers greater instructional flexibility, while personally increasing their access, mobility, and organization. Finally, the laptops support Out-of-Door's commitment to sustainable principles and less dependence on printed material.

For the 2009-10 school year, the Apple MacBook is the exclusive recommendation of the Out-of-Door Technology Department. We are confident that the MacBook is the best technology available to meet the needs of our students. Furthermore, your child will love working on a Mac. While you are welcome to purchase the machine on your own, there will be two opportunities to purchase your child's computer at a discounted price directly from Apple. The first option is to make your purchase from the online Apple store that has been established by Apple for our students. All products on the site have a special educational discount applied. Our recommended model will be bundled with the warranty and required software and will appear on this web page as your "recommended system" until June 26, 2009. Please be advised that after that date, Apple will no longer guarantee the pricing and this link will be removed. The store URL is <http://www.apple.com/edu/oda>. As our price agreement with Apple is for students only, we ask that you use this store solely for academic purchases for your child. In addition, Apple does not disclose the identity of any purchases made through this site so you will need to keep track of any paperwork or warranty information that goes along with your machine. Please inform us when a purchase has been made so that we can notify you when upgrades need to be performed by our office.

As an additional convenience, a representative from Apple will be at our Uihlein Campus Library on Wednesday, May 20 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. to show you the models and answer any specific questions you may have. You will have the opportunity to place an order that evening if you wish. Additional information about this event will be forwarded to you later in the month.

If you choose to buy your student a MacBook through a different, non-educational vendor, please follow these recommendations:

- Please have Microsoft Office on your MacBook. Your version of Office must have PowerPoint, Word, and Excel. Note that Microsoft has many educational, student/teacher versions available at a discounted price and these will meet our requirements. You can purchase a copy for your student from the school for a fee, and the tech department will install it, but you will not receive the back-up.
- We recommend that students purchase and use a USB Flash Disk for storing and exchanging data. These come in many brands and sizes, but any USB model should work with the MacBook once reformatted to do so.
- Please purchase a minimum of 1 GB of RAM
- Please include the 3 year warranty from Apple

I am looking forward to continuing to work with your child next year as they enter the laptop program. If you have any specific questions about the laptops, the contents of this letter, or the instructional technology program here at Out-of-Door, please feel free to contact me at jbarrett@oda.edu.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Joanne Barrett
US Technology