

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 offers greater instructional flexibility while personally increasing access, mobility, and organization. Finally, the laptops support Out-of-Door's commitment to sustainable principles and less dependence on printed material.

For the 2010-11 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. While you are welcome to purchase the machine on your own, there will be an opportunity to purchase your child's computer at a discounted price bundled directly from Apple on our special web store they have established for us. The store URL is <http://www.apple.com/edu/oda>. While we have done our best in working with our reps to provide you with the best possible pricing, we cannot change the fact that even the reps are not aware when new products will be introduced or when further price reductions can be introduced. As such, please be aware that at any point you make your purchase, the possibility exists that pricing may change. Further, because of California privacy laws, when you purchase from the site, the school is not made aware of your purchase, so we have no way to notify you of any changes or updates.

To access the pricing, go to <http://www.apple.com/edu/oda>. You should see a box that says "Your Recommended Systems" on the top right of the screen. Our recommended model will include the warranty and required software. Please note: The Apple quarter ends on June 30th, and after that date, the bundled pricing has changed in years past.

When pricing equipment on your own, you may be able to find a lower price, but you need to be aware that the machine will probably not include the software (Microsoft Office) and three-year warranty that Apple has "bundled" into the price. 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.

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

- Install 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 technology department will install it, but you will not receive the back-up disk.
- Purchase a minimum of 1 GB of RAM.
- Include the three-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