

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES REQUIRED COMPUTER PURCHASE



Tablet Laptop Computer Purchase for the Class of 2012

Technology can make a big difference in student learning and facilitate innovation, creativity, collaboration, as well as individual inquiry. We are excited that IMSA will continue on our journey in bringing technology into student learning and this year for the first time all students will have a tablet PC computer. Over the past two years, we required all sophomores to procure a tablet PC computer. Continuing on this path, all incoming sophomores are required to enter with a tablet computer and we have negotiated special purchase pricing for you.

A tablet PC computer is a type of notebook computer that allows students to use a digital pen as an input device directly on the screen surface that supports handwriting and sketching along with mouse control, unlike conventional laptops. This facilitates fluid writing of such classroom activities as mathematical formulas, chemical equations, molecular drawings, and biological sketches. The tablets also support software that allow collaboration on common documents. The use of a tablet also supports our Green Initiatives in note taking.

We recommend a professional grade (versus a consumer grade) machine to withstand the rough service a tablet PC computer in the school setting receives. It is important to note that the price difference between a professional grade laptop and tablet is about 18%.

This year we require that incoming sophomores purchase a tablet computer of their choice that meets or exceeds the following specifications:

- Intel Core 2 Duo 1.83 GHz Processor
- 4GB Main Memory
- 80GB Hard Drive
- DVD Double-Layer Burner/Optical Drive
- Wired 10/100/1000 Network Port
- Wireless 802.11g Network Card (NOTE: 802.11b will not be supported)
- Bluetooth capability
- Windows XP Tablet 2005 Edition

Students are also required to purchase the Adobe Photoshop Elements software. The academy will provide all other required software. **IMSA has negotiated special purchase prices and service agreements with Fujitsu, HP, Lenovo, and Toshiba.** These manufacturers have agreed to install IMSA's standard software package (i.e. image) for you. Information about these manufacturers and links to purchase these systems are posted on our web site at: <http://www.imsa.edu/directory/parents/>. This site will be refreshed with new information so that you can begin the purchase process by May 15.

We have decided to use Microsoft's "back-rev" capabilities which gives us the right to purchase the latest version of the software (Windows Vista) while using the previous version (Windows XP Tablet PC Edition). We will continue to delay the use of Vista for at least another year, due to its continued immaturity, overall security issues, and lack of hardware support across the Academy.

IMSA has a number of tablets available to students who can not afford to purchase one at this time. Students who wish to request a tablet computer must contact the Principal Office, and complete the IMSA National Programs Application. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch will be eligible, and given first priority to use an IMSA owned tablet computer. IMSA will review the 2009 Application for Free and Reduced-price Meals, used in determining IMSA student fees (The National Programs

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Application document on the list of Registration Forms) to also determine eligibility for use of the IMSA tablet computer.

It is important to purchase your machine by July 1, 2009 in order to have enough time to bring it with you for registration and moving in on August 13. We will have information session available during placement testing at IMSA on May 29, as well as during the summer orientation sessions to answer additional questions about the tablet computers.

All students receive computer accounts for e-mail access, general network access, and Internet access during summer orientation before the beginning of the academic year. High speed Internet access for students is provided as a result of the IMSA computer accounts so that it is not necessary for students to purchase Internet services through an Internet Service Provider such as AOL.

Prior to receiving access to their account, each student will attend a required technical orientation which will provide the training necessary to begin using the IMSA network. During the training, students will be required to read and understand the Academy's Information Technology Resource Policy and the Computer and Network Honor Code. Signature on the IT Policy and Honor Code Acceptance form will be required by all students prior to accessing their accounts. In addition, all sophomores will take part in a course on digital ethics as part of Sophomore Navigation. Please be aware that by policy the Academy does not use internet content filtering software, other than email spam filtering. The IT Policy, the Ethics Course, and the Computer Network Honor Code serve to inform students of Academy expectations. Violation of these expectations may result in loss of computer privileges and/or other disciplinary consequences.

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