

Purchasing a Macintosh Laptop Computer Outside of IMSA's Computer Purchase Program

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Why should I purchase within IMSA's computer purchase program?

Professional Grade Computer:

The computers selected for IMSA's program are professional grade computers. Professional grade computers are better built with higher quality parts and with higher standards vs. consumer grade computers.

Consumer grade computers are commonly found at BestBuy, OfficeDepot, Walmart, etc.... Consumer grade computers are not built with as high of quality parts as their professional grade counterparts. Consumer grade computers may be built by a sub-contractor and not the manufacture whose name is on the lid.

Software included:

All of the software the student will need for their IMSA career is pre-installed, with the exception of the Adobe Photoshop Elements application required by the Social Sciences department. All other software is provided by IMSA while the student is enrolled.

Warranty:

The computers on the computer purchase program have included in the price Accidental Damage Protection (ADP) warranty. This ADP warranty covers repairs to the computer caused by typical teenage behavior that affects the functional usage of the computer. Cosmetic damage, cracks, dents, and scratches that do not affect the computer's operation are not covered. Without this warranty any damage to the computer caused by dropping or spilling of liquid would be at the expense of the owner.

Support:

Student's who purchase within the program will have the added advantage of trained and certified computer hardware and software support specialist on campus. These trained support specialists will be available to them both day and night. These specialist make up the Student Computing Support (SCS) and the ITS HelpDesk teams.

In the event of an operating system corruption or computer virus infection, IMSA support personnel will re-image the computer back to its original operating system and application state. This will get the computer back in running condition and in the student's hands with in 2-3 hours vs. the 8 to 24 hours it may take to diagnose, troubleshoot and resolve the operating system corruption or virus infection.

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Purchasing a Macintosh computer outside the computer purchase program

If you chose to purchase a Macintosh laptop computer for your student outside of IMSA's Computer Purchase Program there is additional hardware and software that you will need to also purchase along with some service and support considerations.

Support for the laptop you purchase will be limited. IMSA support personal will only be able to assist with IMSA network connection issues. Any hardware or software issues that come up will have to be handled by the parents and the student in cooperation with the computer's manufacture.

Your student will also have to spend time installing all of the free software that IMSA students use throughout their careers.

Apple/Macintosh does not offer an Accidental Damage Protection warranty, so any physical damage to the Macintosh laptop would be the financial responsibility of the student and their family.

Shopping List

- ✓ Select a laptop computer that meets the following minimum specifications:
 - Intel i5 or i7 Processor or better with a speed of 2.4GHz minimum (AMD Processor are also acceptable)
 - 4GB Main Memory
 - 160GB Hard Drive
 - DVD Double-Layer Burner/Optical Drive
 - Wired 10/100/1000 Network Port
 - Wireless 802.11G or better network card (802.11b will not be supported)
 - BlueTooth Capability
- ✓ Purchase a copy of Microsoft Windows Operating System, Windows 7 Home Premium minimum. (Note: 64-bit operating systems may have limited printing support on the IMSA campus)
- ✓ Purchase or obtain a software package that will allow you to run the Windows operating system as a secondary operating system or as a virtual operating system
 - Possibilities: Apple BootCamp, Parallels, VMWare, etc...
- ✓ Purchase a high quality laptop case or backpack. Make sure it is designed to carry both a laptop and school books.
- ✓ Purchase an external USB hard drive for backup purposes, recommended minimum size: 500GB
- ✓ Purchase an 8GB Flash Drive for emergency backups or sharing files with other students or teachers.
- ✓ Purchase a copy of Adobe Photoshop Elements
 - Recommend you purchase the educational package for teachers and students, it will cost less.

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- ✓ Purchase a copy of Microsoft Office Suite
 - Recommend you purchase the educational package for teachers and students, it will cost less.
 - Must have Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, and Microsoft PowerPoint applications

- ✓ Purchase a copy of Microsoft Expressions Web
 - Recommend you purchase the educational package for teachers and students, it will cost less.

- ✓ Purchase a copy of Microsoft OneNote
 - Recommend you purchase the educational package for teachers and students, it will cost less.