INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
REQUIRED COMPUTER PURCHASE

IMSA®
Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy

Laptop Computer Purchase for the Class of 2014

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.. Over the past four years, we required all sophomores to procure a Tablet PC computer. This year we are discontinuing the Tablet PC requirement and instead requiring the purchase of a standard laptop. This change came about as a result of several industry factors and a review of the use of the Tablet PC technology at IMSA.

We recommend a professional grade (versus a consumer grade) machine to withstand the rough service delivered by students in the school setting. 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 professional grade laptop of their choice that meets or exceeds the following minimum specifications:

- Intel i5 Processor
- 4-6GB Main Memory
- 160GB 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 7

Students are also required to purchase the Adobe Photoshop Elements software. The academy will provide all other required software to families who purchase one of the special negotiated systems. **IMSA has negotiated special purchase prices and service agreements with Fujitsu, HP, 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 16, 2011.

IMSA has a number of laptops available to students who can not afford to purchase one at this time. Students who wish to request a laptop computer must contact the Principal's 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 laptop computer. IMSA will review the 2011 Application for Free and Reduced-price Meals, used in determining IMSA student fees (The National Programs Application document on the list of Registration Forms) to also determine eligibility for use of the IMSA laptop computer.

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It is important to purchase your machine by July 5, 2011 in order to have enough time to bring it with you for registration and move in on August 16, 2011. We will have an information session available during the summer orientation sessions to answer additional questions about the laptop 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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