

Computer Purchasing Tips (for Students and Staff)

Buying a new laptop computer can be challenging as technology changes so quickly. Below you'll find some general recommendations to help you with your purchasing decisions, including a few websites that provide more detailed recommendations.

First, consider what you will be using the computer for over the next 5 years, which is the typical lifecycle for a laptop. If all that is needed is basic word processing, e-mail, web browsing and Teams functionality, an inexpensive computer will do. If you will be using the computer for media, graphics programs or business and science programs, you should consider a mid- to higher-end computer.

We do not recommend tablets unless they are needed for specific apps. The productivity of apps, such as Office and Teams, are very limited on tablets and phones.

Recommended Requirements

Processor: Core i3 or equivalent; Core i5 or equivalent is better. This really depends on your needs; the retailer should be able to assist you.

RAM: 4GB; 8GB is better. 8+ GB is only needed for high-end apps like AutoCad or Adobe CC.

Hard drive: 64GB – 128GB Solid State Drive (SSD) - these will be faster. A mechanical Hard Drive will cost less and have more space, but will be a bit slower.

Articles for guidance:

<https://www.techradar.com/news/best-laptops-for-kids>

<https://www.pcmag.com/picks/the-best-laptops-for-kids>

Office 365

Microsoft Office 365 is the core software platform used by NVSD. It is available on any web browser and will run on most newer computers or mobile devices. There are apps available for both Apple and Android (Chromebook) platforms. Remember, students and staff can download a full version of Office on up to five computers and the mobile apps on five mobile devices. Click [HERE](#) for instructions.

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Chromebook

By far, the most inexpensive option. You can purchase a Chromebook for about \$250, which seems like a bargain; however, be aware that the lower cost versions may not have the memory or storage space that you'll need.

Pros:

- Low cost
- Will work with Office 365 and Teams
- Easy to use

Cons:

- The Office 365 apps will not have full functionality
- Limited to Google apps
- Must have a Google account outside of the NVSD. Google only has servers in the United States, so there are possible privacy concerns.

Windows 10

Pros:

- NVSD is moving to a PC platform for all grades (K – 12)
- Less expensive options and high-quality computers available

Cons:

- If you are used to Apple, it takes a little time to get used to a PC

Windows 10S

Windows 10S is a “light” version of Windows 10 that will run better on computers with less power.

Pros:

- Less expensive
- Longer battery life
- Only runs apps from the Microsoft Store so they are safe

Cons:

- Only runs apps from the Microsoft Store so an app you need may not be available

Apple

Pros:

- Durable and easy to use if you are already an Apple user

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Cons:

- No inexpensive options

Dell discount for Students and Staff

How to access your discount:

1. Visit <https://www.dell.ca/MPP> and use your student or employee email address for your coupon.
2. Check your email for a coupon and a link to redeem online.
3. The coupon can be applied at checkout or by contacting our dedicated sales team at Canada_MPP@Dell.com.