LAPTOP ROLL OUT TO STUDENTS IN 2013

The Norwood Morialta High School (NMHS) is committed to providing its students with a quality, internationally recognised education that prepares them for their life in the 21st Century. This includes providing ‘Anytime, Anywhere’ access to laptops, enabling students to use new teaching and learning tools, including the school’s eLearning environment and other Web 2.0 technologies, that are increasingly becoming an integral part of working life. **Students at NMHS are expected to have a laptop with them at each of their lessons.**

NMHS students have been participating in a laptop program, either Digital Education Revolution (DER) funded or the Anytime-Anywhere Laptop Scheme (AALS) since 2010. In 2013 the school has investigated options for families in order to provide students with a laptop which can be used 24/7, both at school and at home.

The recommended laptops will be bundled with software, warranty and give students local administrative rights. We appreciate some students may already have a laptop at home, however, these laptops typically do not have software required by the school and are unable to access the school’s eLearning environment. There are cheaper options available at external retailers, eg Harvey Norman. However, they do not have the necessary battery life, the robustness needed for everyday student use, on site warranty and technical support that provides reliable access to the school resources.

The NMHS 2013 Laptop Program

To support families in the purchasing of a suitable laptop, NMHS has investigated a number of vendors and have finally negotiated with ACER a laptop package which has the following distinct benefits including:

- Extensive bundled software (meeting school’s curriculum needs) at a lower than retail price,
- Extended 3 year warranty,
- 3 Years Accidental Damage Cover with very quick turn around time for repairs.

It ensures a consistent platform, which in turn:

- Facilitates curriculum delivery,
- Provides rapid resolution of issues related to hardware and software,
- Enables the school to better monitor & support the laptops in school.

There are two proposed 2013 Laptop Options:

Option 1 – Acer Aspire M5-481T 14” Ultrabook with 500GB HDD and 20GB SSD. Cost: $1279.00. For those who still want a higher storage capacity.

Option 2 – Acer Aspire M5-481T 14” Ultrabook with 120GB Solid State Drive (Boot from Post – less than 15 seconds) Cost: $1339.00 For those who want a quicker start up time and a robust hard drive.
The cost of the Laptop (either model) will be inclusive of:

- Windows 7 Enterprise Operating System
- Computrace Security Software
- McAfee virus & Internet security software
- 3 Years Accidental Damage Cover - Not normally available on retail purchase.
- 3 Years (onsite) Swap & Go Warranty - Not normally available on retail purchase.
- 3 Years Battery Warranty- Not normally available on retail purchase.
- 8 hours + Battery life (compared to 6 hours retail)
- 1000 Charge Cycle battery life (300 most retail products)
- Keyboard backlit
- WiDi Support 2.0
- Purpose built bag with enhanced protection
- More RAM – (6G RAM)
- and free HDMI to VGA cable.
- Licensing for:
  - Office 2010 Suite (or later) including -
    - Word
    - Excel
    - Access
    - Publisher
    - PowerPoint
    - One Note
    - Approx Retail value of $169
  - Adobe Creative Suite 5.5 Design Premium including:
    - Photoshop
    - Acrobat
    - Dreamweaver
    - Illustrator
    - Flash
    - Approx Retail value of $402

The school will be supporting this program by providing on-site technical support on both campuses as well as the major infrastructure necessary to support a 1 to 1 Laptop scheme. The Office and Adobe Software has been packaged by the school and is included in this Laptop Program.

School based option

If a family chooses not to participate in the Laptop Program an existing (older) laptop will be made available to students as a daily loan laptop. It will need to be borrowed at the beginning of the day and must be returned at the end of the day for storage in a secure location. There is no guarantee students will be issued the same laptop on a day to day basis (students will need to ensure that an appropriate personal storage device is available).

Your orders

In order for your child to have a laptop for the start of 2013 they must be ordered by 9 November. This date has been extended due to links to LWT and their finance company not working until recently. Delivery of the laptops will be week beginning December 17 2012. This gives families a great opportunity to purchase laptops for Christmas and getting familiar with the device before the school year commences.

How can I order?

Simply follow the link from our school website to www.lwt.com.au/oders/nmhs to place your order. LWT are offering families a one off payment or financing options.

We are excited about the impact that this scheme will have on the teaching and learning programs in our class rooms, and look forward to your participation in this important initiative.
FAQs:

**Why can’t students bring their own laptops?**

While we appreciate that some students will already have laptops or notebook computers, the use of a mixture of different devices is fraught with difficulty. Without a common platform and software it is difficult for staff to support students in using this technology for learning tasks. A common platform also ensures that all work completed by students can be uploaded and viewed by teachers and vice versa.

If students have a variety of computers it is very difficult for the school to provide prompt support or hot-swap facilities which ensure that all students in a class can have the technology they need to take advantage of the learning opportunities.

The reports from schools that have trialled allowing devices from home have found that it was unsuccessful in incorporating ICT into everyday classroom activities and added a significant management overhead.

DECD has investigated and advised against allowing computers from home.

**What about cheaper options?**

The computers were selected based on suitability for the types of activities that students are likely to experience in a school environment. To suit the range of students the computer must be capable of the multitasking approach commonly used in schools and by 21st Century learners, as well as being able to support the graphics intensive aspects of multimedia (necessary to run Adobe suite without significant delays).

Smaller, cheaper computers (eg notebooks) are unable to effectively carry out multiple tasks at once and have significant delays in opening / closing programs and recording/retrieving data. This had been widely reported as causing frustration in the classroom environment in schools that have initially chosen the “cheap option”.

Further, cheaper devices often have a shorter lifespan and suppliers are not willing to offer a 3 year warranty. The increased downtime (and maintenance costs) associated with cheaper models argue against choosing the cheaper option offered by some retail stores.

The laptop that has been chosen is the same model and configuration as identified by a number of other 1 to 1 Government and private schools. The DECD pricing allows for considerable discounts on retail price compared the price available through a retail store.

**Why SSD? (Solid State Drive)**

The SSD or solid state hard drives are a newer form of data storage which are becoming more common place and are likely to replace Hard disk drives (HDDs) in laptops in the near future. Although they are more expensive they have significant advantages because there are no moving parts.

The traditional HDD hard drives have moving parts and are quite susceptible to damage when moved. Many students treat laptops as a truly portable device and often move around with a turned on laptop to seek advice, or discuss their work with other students or teachers.

SSD also have the advantage of faster data storage and retrieval times and lower operating temperature. The smaller capacity of a SSD compared to the available HDD hard drives has no impact on students’ ability to store and manipulate three years worth of school data.
**Why include insurance?**

The breakdown records from the DER funded laptops used in 2010 to 2012 indicate that there are a significant number of issues related to damage to laptops and the unexpected costs associated with repairing broken laptops. A number of students have avoided or delayed repairs to laptops over concern about the charge that may be made for the cost of repairs. All the advice from organisations who work with 1 to 1 schemes strongly recommends the inclusion of an insurance component.

Examples of repair costs *(in 2012)*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Replacement</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Replacement of Screen</td>
<td>$258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replacement of Cracked Upper Cover</td>
<td>$147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replacement of Keyboard</td>
<td>$80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replacement of Motherboard</td>
<td>$147</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Below are some examples of how ACER will repair or replace the Product under Your Accidental Damage, Accidental Loss and Theft Protection Insurance Policy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAUSE OF DAMAGE</th>
<th>RESOLUTION DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liquid spilled on or in unit</td>
<td>Repaired or unit replaced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drops, falls and other similar impact</td>
<td>Repaired or unit replaced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical surge</td>
<td>Repaired or unit replaced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damaged or broken LCD</td>
<td>Repaired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accidental breakage (multiple pieces)</td>
<td>Repaired or unit replaced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accidental Loss or Theft</td>
<td>Unit Replaced</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note if damage is deliberate and proven to be a result of student wilful miss use you will be required to cover the cost of all damage personally.

**What about iPADs / iPhones?**

While there is potential for these devices to be used in an educational context, they are not capable of the word processing and data manipulation processes required of a laptop. They should be seen in an “as well as” not an “instead of” context. At this stage we are trialling some aspects of the use of 3G devices including iPhones & iPads but we do not foresee them being a replacement for a laptop.

**Why should I participate in this Laptop Program Option?**

There are great benefits to students having a 1 to 1 laptop program with 24/7 access. In particular students will be able to have access to the same software used at school and can be confident that the skills they have learnt, and the tasks, they have been set can be completed with the technology and their products will be compatible with teacher and school systems. An individual laptop will allow students to manage their own use of IT without competing with other family members at peak use time. It also ensures files are always in the same place reducing issues related to file transfer.

To buy the equivalent product privately is much more expensive. Learning with Technologies (LWT) does offer a finance option if buying the laptop outright can not be afforded by families.

While students who are not involved in the Laptop Program will have laptop access during school hours on the school grounds, they will have an additional daily responsibility of collecting and returning the laptop and limitations in access to the schools eLearning environment.

**How can I get more information?**

Support documentation will be available on the school's website shortly.