








Computer Buying Guide

	<h2>Hardware Type</h2> <p>Tablet, Laptop, or desktop? (an all-in-one, where the computer and monitor are one unit, is pictured far right). Desktops are better for storing a lot of files, a laptop for creating a lot of documents, and a tablet is for reading emails and surfing the web.</p>
	<h2>Operating System</h2> <p>Windows (Microsoft), iOS or Mac (Apple), and Chrome (Google) are your main choices. Unless you're up for a learning curve, the best bet is to stick with what you know.</p> <p><u>Notes:</u> If you go with Windows, stay away from S Mode. If you want to play DVDs, stay away from Chrome.</p>
	<h2>Screen Size</h2> <p>The two squares in the picture on the left are the only part of the webpage that contains what you're trying to read. This would be tough to read with a smaller screen. Start at 15".</p>
	<h2>Drive Type</h2> <p>Solid State Drives (SSD) are newer and faster but you'll get less space. Hard Disk Drives (HDD) will provide you with more storage but are slower because of moving parts.</p>
	<h2>RAM</h2> <p>The RAM (or Random Access Memory) is the type of memory that's used during active tasks. Never go below 4 GB.</p>
	<h2>Processor</h2> <p>The Processor (or CPU) is the brains of the computer. Intel is the most common. Look for a spec that starts with i5. Unless you're a gamer, you don't need to worry about the number of cores that are mentioned.</p>
	<h2>Software</h2> <p>Windows computers no longer come with Office (Word, Excel, etc...) so you'll need to purchase a subscription as well.</p> <p>New computers will also come with a free trial of an Antivirus application. You should uninstall it and if you went with Windows, the Defender application will cover you. Macs and Chromebook don't need a third party antivirus either.</p>