Laptop Computers

When selecting a new laptop computer, thought should be given to how you will be using the computer and what applications you expect to run. Laptop systems are often a trade-off between features such as screen size, weight, performance, battery life and price. We encourage you to request Peds IT assistance in this process.

Processor:
Normal user - Intel Core i3 or i5
Power user - Intel Core i5 or i7
Note: mobile processors (Core m3, m5, m7) may be used to maximize battery life.

Memory:
Normal user - 8 GB RAM
Power user - 16 GB RAM

Video Card:
Normal user - on-board (built-in) video
Power user - 1-2 GB add-on card for video intensive applications

Hard Drives:
Normal user - 250 GB spindle drive or 256 GB Solid State drive
Power user - 500 GB- 1 TB spindle drive or 512 GB Solid State drive

Note: Larger hard drives are NOT recommended. Most users should store their files on secure servers, not the local system. Hybrid solid state drives can improve performance while keeping costs low.

Optical Drive:
Typically not needed and often not available on lightweight models. However, if optical disks will be used, select:
8X DVD +/- RW

Video Display:
Laptops usually offer varying levels of resolution. Typically the higher the resolution, the smaller the font sizes will appear. Resolution is a measurement of pixel count expressed in two numbers, width by height, typically labeled as follows:

- Hi-Def or HD - 1280 X 720
- Full or FHD - 1920 x 1080
- Quad or QHD - 2560 x 1440
- Ultra HD - 3840 x 2160
- 4K - 4096 x 2160

Lastly, consider a touch screen if you plan to use Windows 10.

Camera & Microphone:
Laptops typically include these but verify if you expect to use these features.
Wireless:
Laptops all include Wi-Fi as standard. Bluetooth wireless is an option needed for things like wireless mice and other applications.

Battery Options:
Laptop batteries are rated by Whr or watt hours. The higher the number, the longer the battery life. More powerful batteries are usually larger and heavier, adding to the weight of the laptop.