Features to Consider When Buying a Student Computer

1. **Portability:** If you plan on taking your computer from one place to another (daycare, gatherings), you'll want to get something portable like a laptop or netbook. If it'll always be in one place, you can save money with a desktop.
2. **Durability:** Your student computer is going to see a lot of use. Get something with a good warranty.
3. **Storage:** Your hard drive will fill up quickly with files and projects, opt for cloud storage (like One Drive or Dropbox).
4. **Speed:** There are two things to look at here, the processor speed and the memory. A faster processor lets your computer do its thing faster (Intel and AMD will work equally well for schoolwork). More memory generally has an even bigger impact, particularly when you're multi-tasking (You need at least 4 GB of RAM).
5. **Monitor/screen:** A larger screen is easier to read but will cost you more. Some monitors double as touchscreens, which can be handy, but will cost extra. Touchscreens that are Microsoft Ink compatible will allow the student to write on assignments similar to writing on paper. (This is especially great for younger students…*and old teachers, I love my stylus!)*
6. **Operating system:** In most cases, this comes down to Windows, macOS and Chrome OS. You'll want an operating system that's consistent with what you already have (for example, it's a pain to run a single Mac when all your other machines run on Windows) and one that's able to run the programs you use (All of these systems will run the programs used for school)
7. **Webcam-** Needed for TEAMS, Zoom and Flipgrid assignments

Understanding the Tech Lingo

In case you are getting hung up on what all the specs do/mean, here's a simple explanation …

**Processor** = the brain of the computer. The latest models will last you longer and be able to keep up with the development of apps (without going senile)

**Storage** = the file cabinet. How much you need depends on how much you save (and the size of things you save). Videos? Pics? Documents? Software Programs?

**RAM** = how much it can handle doing at once. Think of it as a person sitting at a desk. Can that person handle a desk piled high with different projects, multi-tasking back and forth? Keeping everything straight and thriving on that? The more RAM the more it can do (and the more complex things like video editing, gaming, etc) at once.

**Screen resolution** = how clear is the image. I suggest visiting a computer store and looking at the different models to get an idea of diff. resolutions and what you can cope with.

**Graphics card** = not really a huge issue unless you are using it for gaming.

Some acceptable examples are:

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| Lenovo 300e 2nd Gen  **Starting at: $319 new**  Screen Size: 11.6"  Memory: 4GB  Storage: 32GB eMMC | Dell 3100 2-in-1  **Starting at: $309 new**  Screen Size: 11.6" Touchscreen  Memory: 4GB  Storage: 32GB eMMC | HP AE120NR 2-in-1  **Starting at $329 new**  Screen Size: 11.6" Touchscreen  Memory: 4GB  Storage: 64GB eMMC |

\*refurbished and open box are often less expensive