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News & Advice from Your Neighborhood Nerd!

Shopping for a Back-to-School laptop?

Don't be fooled by all the advertisements for low-cost laptops. They're not low-cost—they're cheap! Intel Celeron and AMD Sempron processors are slow compared to Core 2 Duo processors. Even with the Vista Home Basic operating system your laptop will run slowly with its Celeron/Sempron and their pipeline bottlenecks.



This being said, a cheap \$350 laptop can be the perfect computer for Grandpa or Grandma, or anyone who just wants to check email, browse the internet, and write letters. For \$350 you can get a 10" netbook. (Or visit TigerDirect, which has offered in-store specials of a 2GB 15.4" Acer laptop.)

Confused about the best computer to buy your students or parents? Contact your nearest Nerd at Professional Nerds, who can give you the help, information, and the referrals you need to purchase and set up a new computer system.

Are You and Your Kids Ready to go Back to School?



Visit http://kidshealth.org/kid/feeling/school/back_to_school.html for good back-to-school parenting tips. This Website gives great advice for parents on how to help their children adjust to the many transitions in school and have a great year of learning.

The U.S. government shares education information and tips for all ages at

http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Back_to_School.shtml.

Wireless Inkjet Printing

The Epson Artisan 700 and 800 printers have WiFi and Ethernet attachments for a router, as well as standard USB for direct connect. Much better for sharing among multiple machines in the home, as a WiFi/Ethernet printer isn't dependent on a host PC being turned so other users can print. Both printers use SIX ink tanks, so you only replace the empty cartridge rather than throwing away unused ink in 'tricolor' cartridges. Both models also offer printing directly to 'printable' CD/DVD /Blu-Ray blank discs. This is MUCH faster than HP's Lightscribe system, your results are in full color (even photos on CD/DVD/Blu-Ray 'labels'). There's no label to peel/stick on (or accidentally peel off!), and they look much nicer than handwriting with a black permanent marker. Like any ink jet, manufacturer ink cartridges cost more, but professional photographers prefer Epson because of their pigment-based ink. Cheaper refill/compatible inks are based on dyes and will fade over time. (Stop in at Lewek Photography in Glen Ellyn and ask Al to show you his Epson printers and ink supply!).

The Artisan 700 does copy/print/scan, and it lists for \$200, but TigerDirect/CompUSA was recently selling it for \$150.

<http://tinyurl.com/ntdofh>

(PS Tiger Direct is now known as CompUSA, but the main website is still www.tigerdirect.com).

The Artisan 800 model additionally has a

Back-to-School Fun Facts

Looking to impress your friends with some basic back-to-school knowledge. The U.S. Census Bureau has added back-to-school facts to its Website. Visit http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/005225.html.

Questions? Contact Professional Nerds™ at 1.877.I.T.NERDS (1-877-486-3737)

sheet feeder and Fax capability; it lists for \$300, but TigerDirect/CompUSA recently was selling this for \$230.

<http://tinyurl.com/mrecht>

TigerDirect/CompUSA also has wireless keyboard/mouse sets starting at \$25

Logitech Cordless Desktop EX 100

<http://tinyurl.com/lnb3m>

You can pickup items at the TigerDirect/CompUSA outlet store in Naperville near Fox Valley mall (and other locations around Chicagoland), or if you order online with ground shipping you'll still get the item in a day or two. .

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