

December 11, 2009

Dear Parents of Soon-to-Be Juniors and Seniors,

As we continue to prepare and plan for next year's transition to the trimester model of scheduling and implementation of 1:1 computing, we wanted to provide you with important information as you make your decision to either purchase a MacBook through the school or choose a different option. Freshmen and Sophomores will be required to participate next year, but Juniors and Seniors will have an option of opting-in or opting-out. Below are the cost break downs and pricing related to the MacBooks and what the school plan would include. During the registration process in January/February, future Juniors and Seniors will have an opportunity to indicate their desired choice.

School MacBook Choice and Model Information Cost:

- 13.5-inch MacBook
- 2.26GHZ : 250GB
- 2.26GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 2GB DDR3 memory
- 250GB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M graphics
- Built-in 7-hour battery
- Polycarbonate unibody enclosure
- CD/DVD burner
- For more specifics, please visit:
http://store.apple.com/us/browse/home/shop_mac/family/macbook?afid=p219|GOU S&cid=OAS-US-KWG-CPUMacBook-US

The school currently plans to install the following software on school-purchased MacBooks:

<u>Software</u>	<u>PND cost</u>	<u>Retail cost</u>
Microsoft Office for Mac 2008:	\$54	\$120
Geometer's Sketchpad V5:	\$15	\$69.95
Adobe Creative Suite CS4 Design Premium:	\$299	\$1,799

(Please note that enrollment in a class that uses the Adobe Creative Suite does not mean that you will have to opt-in to the laptop program. Classes using the Adobe Creative Suite will be scheduled in the Mac Lab to accommodate students who do not opt into the program.)

Computers that are not under the PND management settings are not eligible for the software.

About the Software

-Microsoft Office for Mac includes MS WORD, EXCEL, and PowerPoint, which are Microsoft's programs for word processing, spreadsheets, and presentations.

-Geometer's Sketchpad is a dynamic construction, demonstration, and exploration tool that adds a powerful dimension to the study of mathematics. Teachers and students can use this software program to build and investigate mathematical models, objects, figures, diagrams, and graphs.

-In addition to the packaged programs needed to manage the suite, the **Adobe Creative Suite CS4 Design Premium** includes the following programs: **PhotoShop**(digital image editing/enhancement), **Illustrator**(vector graphics), **InDesign**(layout), **Acrobat**(.pdf creation), **DreamWeaver**(web design), **Flash**(animation), **Fireworks**(prototype and web design), and **Bridge**(media manager). The Adobe Creative Suite 4 Design Premium is the ultimate toolkit for crafting precise page layouts, achieving typographic finesse, creating stunning digital images and vector graphics, developing eye-catching web pages and rich interactive experiences, and producing them all with utmost fidelity within a single, unified creative environment.

There has been a great deal of discussion about why Peoria Notre Dame has chosen to "go Mac" when Apple programs are not the those used by the "real world." Technology literacy is what we aim to teach here, so PND has chosen to provide a hybrid of Mac/PC/Web 2.0 tools. Word processing, spreadsheets, and presentations are much the same, whether you are using MS Office, Pages/Numbers/Keynote, OpenOffice, AjaxWrite, ThinkFree, Zoho Writer, GoogleDocs, or a host of other free Web 2.0 tools. The world is quickly becoming a more collaborative place in which the Internet is being used as a platform for dynamic information-sharing, evidenced by the growing number of online collegiate offerings. Therefore, learning to use more of the tools offered online behooves our students. Additionally, Peoria Notre Dame has partnered with Google to provide Gmail and Google Accounts through the school beginning next year. Two years ago Peoria Notre Dame began utilizing Google's free not-for-profit educational hosting for email.

Insurance Options

AppleCare

Every Mac comes with complimentary telephone technical support for 90 days from your Mac purchase and a one-year limited warranty. You can call Apple's award-winning technical support experts as often as you like and get your questions answered. The hardware covered includes:

- Your Mac computer
- Included accessories such as the power adapter
- Apple memory (RAM)
- PND deductible: N/A, PND cost: \$183, Retail deductible: N/A, Retail cost: \$249
- To read more about AppleCare, please visit:
<http://store.apple.com/us/browse/home/applecare>

However, AppleCare does not cover user-inflicted issues, for example, a student slamming the lid closed (or shoving it in an over-full backpack with other books) resulting in a cracked display. Because AppleCare does not cover enough of what we as a school consider "accidental damage," PND is also purchasing Safeware, an additional insurance policy.

Safeware

The Safeware Individual policy covers:

- accidental damage
- theft
- drops
- falls
- cracked screens
- liquid spills
- power surge
- fire
- vandalism
- natural disasters, etc.
- PND deductible: \$0, PND cost: \$335(over 3 years), Retail deductible: \$100, Retail cost: based on individual credit scores & other factors
- To read more about Safeware, please visit: <http://www.safeware.com/Products/IndividualCoverage.aspx>

Along with the registration materials in January, we plan to make available the final agreement form regarding computer leasing, including an option to purchase the computer all at once, avoiding finance charges. The expected monthly costs are still expected to be near the estimates we shared in October(\$55 a month for Juniors; \$90 a month for Seniors).

We hope you have found this letter helpful as you make your decision. Early next week, we will conduct a straw poll with our soon-to-be Juniors and Seniors to help us finalize our leasing agreements with Apple, Inc. for the coming 2009-2010 school year.

Yours in Christ,

Charlie A. Roy

Principal