

BUYER'S **guide**

Wireless Laptop Computers Less Than \$1000











Anytime, anywhere learning has been a buzzword for quite a few years. Articles in *L&L* have talked about how adding laptops to middle and high schools has revolutionized teaching and learning. Most of these initiatives were undertaken in private schools and when laptops were considerably more expensive than they are now. The newest generation of affordable laptops makes this type of initiative a possibility in many more school settings. In fact, educational discounts for large purchases could drop the prices even lower, allowing even low-income schools to provide laptops to every student.

The budget laptops profiled here—priced less than \$1,000—boast good-sized hard drives, fast processors, solid graphics performance, and often flash memory card readers. The built-in CD writers allow students to share work and turn in high-quality, multimedia-rich assignments. One even includes a DVD burner for students in broadcasting or even yearbook classes.

All come standard with wireless networking capability. This feature raises the price slightly, but it dramatically increases the versatility of the machines. Students and teachers won't be tied down with wires just to navigate the network, allowing computers to be useful in the library, during lunch breaks, on field trips, and even potentially from the student's home.

Laptops aren't typically as upgradeable as desktops, but most of these can easily accept more RAM at the least.

* With the educational discount, the cost of the Apple machine featured here is slightly higher than the upper limit of \$1,000. We included it to help Apple users find a low-cost laptop. ** Battery life is estimated by the vendor; actual performance can vary widely.

Vendor	Model	URL	Price	Size (in.)	Weight (lbs.)
 Apple	MacBook	http://www.apple.com	\$1,049*	8.92 × 12.78 × 1.08	5.2
 Averatec	AV2260-EH1	http://www.averatec.com	\$799	11.69 × 8.38 × 1.31	4
 Dell	Inspiron 1300	http://www.dell.com	\$994	10.5 × 14 × 1.41	6.7
 Hewlett-Packard	Compaq Presario V5000Z	http://www.hp.com	\$475	10.2 × 14.1 × 1.8	6.6
 Hewlett-Packard	Pavilion dv8000z	http://www.hp.com	\$925	11.1 × 15.6 × 1.8	8.1
 Lenovo	3000 c100	http://www.lenovo.com	\$499	10.9 × 13.1 × 1.3	6.2
 Lenovo	3000 v100	http://www.lenovo.com	\$799	9.7 × 12 × 1.3	4.4
 Sony	VGN FS8900	http://www.sony.com	\$729	10.4 × 14.3 × 1.4	6.3
 Toshiba	Satellite A110-ST1111	http://www.toshiba.com	\$549	10.4 × 14.2 × 1.5	5.8
 Toshiba	Tecra A6-EZ6312	http://www.toshiba.com	\$999	9.5 × 13.5 × 1.5	5.2

CPU Speed	CPU Brand	RAM	Hard Drive	Battery Life (hrs.)**	Screen size (in.)	Graphics	Drives	Special Features
1.83 GHz	Intel Core Duo	512 MB	60 GB	unspecified	13.3	Intel GMA 950	CD-RW/ DVD-ROM	AirPort Extreme Card, Bluetooth
1.8 GHz	AMD Turion	512 MB	80 GB	unspecified	12.1	Unspecified	DVD±R/RW	MMC, SD, Memory Stick, and Memory Stick Pro Reader
1.6 GHz	Intel Celeron M	512 MB	40 GB	2	14.1	Intel GMA 900	CD-RW/ DVD-ROM	
1.8 GHz	AMD Mobile Sempron	256 MB	40 GB	2.5	15.4	ATI Radeon XPress 200M	CD-RW/ DVD-ROM	MMC, SD, Memory Stick, and Memory Stick Pro, SmartMedia, and xD card reader
1.8 GHz	AMD Turion	512 MB	80 GB	3.28	17	ATI Radeon XPress 200M	CD-RW/ DVD-ROM	MMC, SD, Memory Stick, and Memory Stick Pro, SmartMedia, and xD card reader
1.3 GHz	Intel Celeron M	256 MB	40 GB	4.5	15	Intel GMA 900	CD-RW/ DVD-ROM	MMC, SD, and Memory Stick card reader
1.6 GHz	Intel Core Duo	512 MB	80 GB	4.4	12.1	Intel GMA 950	CD-RW/ DVD-ROM	Bluetooth
1.5 GHz	Intel Celeron M	512 MB	40 GB	2.5	15.4	Intel GMA 900	CD-RW/ DVD-ROM	Memory Stick, Memory Stick Pro card Reader
1.4 GHz	Intel Celeron M	256 MB	40 GB	2.22	15.4	ATI Radeon XPress 200M	CD-RW/ DVD-ROM	
1.6 GHz	Intel Core Duo	1024 MB	80 GB	5.68	14.1	Intel GMA 950	CD-RW/ DVD-ROM	MMC, SD, Memory Stick, Memory Stick Pro, and xD card reader