

The New Normal For Students From A Technical Point of View (Part I)



As the world changes based on the pandemic of Covid-19 (coronavirus), - social distancing and the wearing of a mask - is this now the new normal? This is now how we have to live from day to day. This new normal has changed EVERYTHING and nothing can be taken for granted.

One of these changes is our educational system which has now become more demanding for our educators, parents and children. Who would have ever thought that an electronic device would be in such demand? We are now forced to use technology like never before and to now equip ourselves on how to use it effectively and efficiently.

The *now* places a challenge on our children as they must learn far more about how to use technology. Our children are now required to function inside and outside of the classroom using this technology that in some cases was being shunned. Gradually, more and more classes will be online, parent teacher conferences and PTA meetings will be online. Our children will be required to do all research online, to complete classwork and assignments online, and to say the least to do examinations online. There is a vast number of computer programs that can be used to meet these requirements.

The most important thing about new and advanced technology, is, the user/s must know how to use it. For example, the computer would not come on? The mouse is not moving? Why is the document not saving or printing? How to send an email or connect to a ZOOM meeting? Therefore, computer users are required to do a little research, ask questions, and maybe even research it on YouTube.

The student's grade level will determine the device needed. Most schools have a computer system requirement based on the courses provided during school for the current and following year.

I would recommend buying a computer with a little more memory, storage space and processing power if possible. This will allow the student to have the computer for a longer time and be prepared for changes in coursework, presentations and downloading of software programs if more processing power and storage are required.

One of the keys to virtual learning is the internet speed, the local Internet Service Providers (ISP) have different rates and speed that are determined by the number of users using the internet and what they are doing on the internet. The internet speed can be determined based on usage, like watching movies on Netflix, listening to music or watching videos on YouTube, gamers using their computers online or gaming consoles like XBOX and PS4. Also, we should not forget users that are doing work from home, online courses and working remotely in Office PC or Server to complete assignments. With multiple users doing multiple things on the home internet all these different things can affect your internet speed. These are a few of the things that you must consider when choosing an internet speed for your home.

Recommend Computer for students:

- Minimum of 250 gigabytes free HDD space
- High Speed such as Cable or Fiber to the Home
- Windows 7 or 10 (Based on Microsoft support/recommendation)
- Microsoft Office, Open Office, or Google Docs (Some Business courses require Microsoft Office)
- 4 GB Ram Required (8 GB Ram Preferred)
- Display setting 1024x768 resolution
- Printer access required
- Students need a method to save work to a portable medium (USB drive (flash drive) online storage like Google Drive,
- Audio: Sound card with speakers and microphone or headset

Macintosh Requirements

- MacOS (10.13) or higher
- High Speed such as Cable or Fiber to the Home
- Microsoft Office, Open Office, or Google Docs (Some Business courses require Microsoft Office which will be notated within course registration)
- Students need a method to save work to a portable medium (USB drive (flash drive) online storage like Google Drive,
- 4 GB Ram Required (8 GB Ram Preferred)
- Minimum of 250 gigabytes free HDD space
- Display setting 1024x768 resolution
- Printer access required
- Audio: Speakers and microphone or headset

The next Article will be on Updates, Protection, other recommended programs.

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