

The following are thoughts and things to consider when purchasing a netbook or mini-notebook.

1. Consider going to Best Buy or even Costco to look at the netbooks that they have in stock. Check it out and look it over. See how your child feels typing on the keyboard. Realize that there is not a media drive so you will not be sliding in DVD's to add software. You will need to download software or add software from a flash drive/thumb drive.
2. Check out the battery life. In the stores they may not have the extended life battery; it may just be a standard battery. Also know that the more we ask the machines to do – wifi, games, etc., battery life decreases, meaning that the power drains more quickly.
3. Once you have settled on the machine you want, go online to check possibilities. I bought our testing machines thru Amazon.com. You can add some options, but that probably won't be necessary.
4. We have looked at the Acer Aspire One and the ASUS EEEpc 1000. Both have 10.1 inch screens, feel comfortable and seem to be sturdy. I liked the ASUS as the keyboard was bigger and I liked the mouse functionality of the touchpad and the left/right click. Please understand I am 6'7" and 380 lbs., so I need a larger keyboard for my hands.
5. Both machines had 160 gig hard drives. That should be plenty of space for what your child wants to do or store as far as data for school. The ASUS had Bluetooth and a 10 gig cloud storage piece. That may not be necessary as we also have 100 mgs of storage in the student file lockers on Edline that all students will have access to as part of their being at Dunne. I also just recommended to Edline in my meetings with them here in Washington that they increase that storage capacity to 250mgs. The ASUS also had Open Office on it which is free word processing and presentation software. The ASUS advertises a battery life of 9 hours. Trust me, you may get close to that, but do not get upset if you don't.
6. Parents and students will be responsible for antivirus software that is up to date. Do not compromise on this. Symantec, MacAfee are both good but there are some others out there that have the same abilities. I actually use the two listed above and also AVG anti-virus. Not on the same machine, but I am always trying different things out to see how they work.
7. Be aware these were the only two models we tested and looked at based on what we discussed with other schools. Know that there are many models out there and many choices and they are changing almost daily. Prices will vary anywhere from \$300 - \$500 depending on options. Some models that are being phased out will go for even less.

This should give you some ideas and if you have additional questions feel free to contact me.