



March 17, 2010

Dear Parents,

In order to prepare students for a successful post secondary education and entry into the career world, we are pleased to announce that SSIS will launch a laptop initiative in grade 9-11 in the coming school year, 2010 - 2011.

In a world where many employers expect computer mastery from new employees and universities commonly require freshmen to arrive with their own computer and computing skills, the laptop initiative is a logical and vital component of the Saigon South International School educational experience.

SSIS students and teachers are increasingly integrating technology into their daily lessons and activities. Learning simulations, research and information gathering, word processing, data analysis and publication are each opportunities for students to connect their learning with life, and success in each is dependent upon sound technology skills.

Beginning August 2010, all 9-11 grade students will be required to bring a laptop to school each day. Although it will not be required for grade 12 students to bring a laptop, it is highly recommended.

In order to support parents, SSIS will offer the following plans to provide laptops:

1. Computer purchase, 2. Computer lease, or 3. Personal laptop

See chart below for the advantages of each plan.

	Purchase	Rental	Personal
3 Year on-site warranty	✓	✓	
Professional installation of all software	✓	✓	
Access to all required software while attending SSIS	✓	✓	
System Integration: Professional configuration of hardware/software	✓	✓	
Access to SSIS network	✓	✓	✓
Loaner Program: Access to an on-site loaner pool to ensure that your child has a replacement unit if the unit requires servicing/repair.	✓	✓	
Battery Program: Access to on-site loaner battery pool should your child forget to charge their battery.	✓	✓	

Purchase or Lease

Computers purchased or leased through the school program will have access to the following services:

1. Repair and maintenance through a certified, onsite technician.
2. Loaner program. Should a computer need repair, a loaner laptop will be provided.

Students who already have a personal laptop must have their machine certified by the SSIS ICT staff to ensure proper installation of virus protection and compatibility with the SSIS network.

Legally and ethically, SSIS has an obligation to ensure that only copyrighted software is used at school. All machines purchased or leased through the school program will come with a legally purchased, standard software package – thus ensuring that teacher instructions will be identical for all students.

Personal Laptop

Laptops not purchased or leased through the school program must meet the following requirements:

1. English language operating system
2. Legal copies of the following software:
 - a. Microsoft Office 2007
 - b. Avira Antivirus – Please see installation details on the web site.

In order to ensure the laptops are available for the start of school on August 11th, we will be submitting our order at the end of May. Should you wish to take advantage of the school laptop purchase program, please visit our website at www.ssis.edu.vn and complete the online order form.

Please note - payment for the machines will be made in Vietnam Dong. Deposits received in US dollars will be credited at the bank exchange rate on the day of purchase. Deposits are due to the school business office by June 10th.

Should you have any questions about these details, please contact our IT Director, Mr. David Perkin at dperkin@sis.edu.vn – ext. 22050

Further information outlining the rationale of this laptop initiative can be found by visiting our website at http://www.ssis.edu.vn/learning/laptop_initiative/overview/

Thank you for your support of this exciting and relevant change to our high school program.

Sincerely,

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