



**Laptops for ICS Addis
Secondary Students**

Anytime, Anywhere Learning

Introducing the ICS Addis 1:1 Laptop Program

Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, ICS Addis will embark on an ambitious and exciting program, providing portable laptop computers to all secondary students. Phasing in over three years, this program will eventually provide a laptop computer for every student in grade 6 through grade 12.

One of the first programs of its kind in Africa, the ICS 1:1 laptop program will put into our students' hands the tools needed to be creative and collaborative students, effective communicators and critically-thinking *netizens* of our globalized, wired world.

The program will be phased in as follows:

2010: grades 6 and 10

2011: grades 7, 9 and 11

2012: grades 8 and 12



Why a 1:1 Laptop Program?

Since the 1960's, technology and educational experts have talked and speculated about the powerful learning that could happen if students had personal access to technology that could allow them to research information, create their own work, and collaborate with others. Schools have been using computers in education for decades, usually within "labs" where classes could go to do computing work. Schools have talked about their student to computer ratio, aiming for 5:1 or 4:1 ratios.

Meanwhile, many experts in educational technology have talked about the many advantages that could happen in a 1:1 environment - a school in which students would have the same kind of personal, continual access to the power of computers and the internet that adults have in most offices and businesses.

The first school-wide 1:1 programs began in the 1980's, and their success has spread around the world. Many international and national schools, including many school districts and states in the US, UK and Australia (as well as other countries) have successfully implemented 1:1 programs.

Research by these schools and states, as well as independent organizations, has shown that such programs can enrich student learning through accessing the vast repositories of information on the internet, communicating with people around the world including peers and experts, and accessing and creating multimedia projects to engage different types of intelligences. Students in schools that run such programs often show greater interest in school and enthusiasm for learning, have fewer problems with attendance or turning in assignments, and often score higher on standardized tests of reading, writing, mathematical skills and more.

By adopting such a program, ICS will be joining a global group of schools who are committed to using modern technology tools to educate and prepare students for success in the 21st century.

How will it work?

Secondary students and parents will have training and orientation sessions. Rights and responsibilities will be discussed, practical issues will be addressed, people will have opportunities to ask questions and get answers.

Students will be issued school-owned laptops. They will be able to use them in school and at home.

Students will be expected to take responsibility for the laptops and keep them safe. They will have a padded carry bag to transport them, but will need to protect the equipment. Students and parents will be expected to be responsible for damages.

The ICS IT Department will handle repairs, troubleshoot problems and provide support. We will install software, including anti-virus software.

Students will be able to do their work on the laptop, and will store files on it. They will back up data on the school's network.

Students will have limited rights on the laptops: they will not have unrestricted ability to change settings and system software.

Teachers will expect students to use the laptops in class and for homework.

A home internet connection is strongly recommended. Parents will need to monitor and manage home internet use.

At the end of the school year, laptops will be returned to school for cleaning up and reformatting over the summer. Students will have laptops issued to them at the beginning of the next school year.

What kinds of hardware and software?

After field testing several models of laptop computers with teachers and students, we are purchasing grade-level sets of the following laptop computers for use in the 2010-2011 school year:

For all students in Grade 6 in 2010-2011 school year:

- 2go PC Convertible Classmate NL2 10" Netbook
- A convertible tablet netbook – with touch screen and tablet capabilities
- www.2gopc.com
- Manufactured and sold by Computer Technology Link www.ctlcorp.com



For all students Grade 10 in 2010-2011 school year:



- Acer Aspire One AO532h 10" Netbook
- A lightweight netbook without tablet or touch capabilities, but with a 10hour battery life.
- www.acer.com

After analyzing options, we felt that these two netbooks would meet the needs of students and classes, provide options for Middle School students and teachers to test out tablet and touch-screen capabilities, and be affordable options for ICS.

We will analyze their use and determine what models will be used in 7th, 9th and 11th grades in the 2011-2012 school year, and then the 8th and 12th grades in the 2012-2013 school year.

These computers will be pre-installed with a variety of educational and productivity software. We are going to use many open source software titles, particularly OpenOffice (instead of Microsoft Office), to save on licensing fees and to provide greater flexibility and cross-platform compatibility.

How will students use laptops?

When students have 1:1 access to computers, a whole world of opportunities opens up. Sure, they might spend too much time on Facebook, multitask and chat with their friends during supposed worktime, but these can be managed and the opportunities certainly outweigh the pitfalls.

- Imagine a shy student whose English is limited and is reluctant to speak out in class, presented with an online discussion forum where she can choose her words carefully before putting them in front of everyone.
- Imagine a visual learner who can look up a diagram or video to explain the concept the teacher has tried to explain.
- Imagine a class sharing scientific data with students across the globe, analyzing their own results in the context of a global phenomenon.
- Imagine a class creating a podcast to share their understanding of poverty from an Ethiopian point of view with people all around the world.
- Imagine a class carrying on a literary analysis of a novel through discussions with students, teachers and authors around the world.
- Imagine a history class in which students can run through a simulation of colonization from the viewpoint of the colonizer as well as the colonized.
- Imagine a student manipulating a mathematical model in various ways, being able to see the relationship between the different variables ...and coming up with his own hypotheses and testing them out.
- Imagine a student able to see a screencast or video of the class explanation and lecture of the class she missed.
- Imagine a group of students live streaming the video of their games or theater activities or debates in another country.

Just imagine what we'll be able to do!

How will we keep students safe?

We are aware and concerned about student safety online. We believe that there are several ways that we can help protect students at school and at home.

One is through technology-driven techniques: filters in place at school block inappropriate websites and functions, and similar safeguards can be put in place at home.

We also emphasize and will expand the educational piece: teaching students about dangers that exist online and how students can keep themselves safe.

A key piece of this is our Responsible Use Policy. We expect all users of technology to behave responsibly, following The ICS Way in technology.

Furthermore, we believe that it is important that student use of technology not happen without adult intervention and supervision, and we encourage parents and teachers to be role models and guides as students navigate the online world.

We will continue to help parents, both individually and in groups, with this through communication in the *Yezare Samint*, on the school's website, in various parent forums and other venues.

*The International
Community School of
Addis Ababa,
accredited in the United
States, develops the talents
and intellects of a
multicultural student body
using learner-centered,
holistic instructional
methods, empowering
each student to contribute
in an evolving world.*

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