

TSS Newsletter



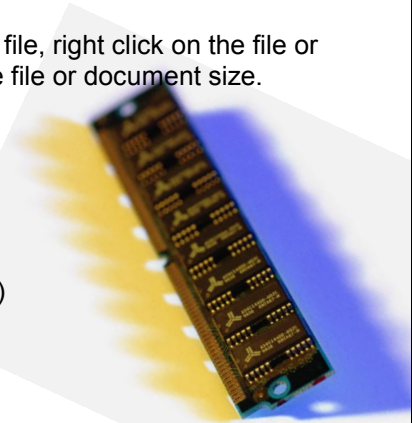
GULFPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT — TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT SERVICES

MEMORY AND STORAGE

How many e-mail messages can I have if I only have 100 Megabytes of storage? How much can I store on a 1GB flash drive? These are questions that we are often asked. However, these questions cannot be answered by simply giving a specific number of documents or a particular number of e-mails. Electronic documents, e-mail messages, pictures, graphics, music, and videos are measured in bytes. A byte is the amount of computer memory that is required to store a piece of data that is the size of one character like the letter "G". In order to store the word "school", a computer needs at least 6 bytes of memory space - 1 byte for each letter of the word. Text by itself does not usually use a lot of memory. However, pictures, graphics, music, and videos tend to use much more memory. (Adjusting your font size and font style will also use more memory than unformatted text.)

To check the size of a document, picture, video, or music file, right click on the file or document icon and select properties. This will display the file or document size.

Byte	.....	1 character
Kilobyte	.....	1,024 bytes
Megabyte	.....	1 million bytes (approximately)
Gigabyte	.....	1 billion bytes (approximately)
Terabyte	.....	1 trillion bytes (approximately)
Petabyte	.....	1 quadrillion bytes (approximately)
Exabyte	.....	1 quintillion (approximately)
Zettabyte	.....	1 sextillion (approximately)
Yottabyte	.....	1 septillion (approximately)



When looking to purchase a new computer, always pay close attention to the amount of memory and hard drive space that is being offered as well as other specifications. So, how much is enough? Let's begin by first discussing memory. RAM (Random Access Memory), commonly referred to today as computer memory or just "memory", is temporary memory and is required to load and run programs. RAM is volatile - it is only available when the computer is powered on. The number of programs that you can run at one time is limited by the amount of RAM that the computer has. Think of RAM as a hotel. The larger the hotel, the more rooms you can have (as explained to Jonathan by his dad years ago.)

When a document or a file is saved to your computer, it is being saved to the hard drive. The hard drive is a location on your computer that contains a specified amount of space for the storage of programs, documents, and files.

When a program such as Word is opened and typing or some type of manipulation to the program occurs, RAM is holding that program and the data (on the screen) until you decide to save it and/or close it. Once the computer is shut down, everything that was being held in RAM is deleted. (The saved the document will still be available from the location stored.)

Unless you plan to do lots of gaming and lots of downloading of music, videos, and movies, a computer with at least 2 GB (preferably 3 GB) of RAM and at least 160 GB hard drive will be sufficient. If you plan to use your computer for downloading music, videos, and movies and/or for gaming, a computer with at least 3 GB and at least a 250 to 320 GB hard drive should meet your needs.

Upcoming Technology Training

January 29 - Promethean (Day 3) Training

Additional Promethean Training Added: January 22 - Promethean (Day 1) Training,
February 26 - Promethean (Day 2) Training & March 26 - Promethean (Day 3) Training

To register for a session, go to the Staff Center page, click on the Technology Training Dates link, and download the registration form.

TECH RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Tracy Daniel
Technology & Assessment
Coordinator

Jack Wittmann
TSS Supervisor

Hope Redmond
Secretary

John Belham
Student Information System
Specialist & MSIS Contact

Jonathan Geiselman
Clint Lowry
Network Engineers

Rick Herro
E-mail Administrator

Tim Masters
David Triggs
Computer Technicians

Glen Baker
Telecommunications

Debra Worthly
Technology Trainer

Child-Friendly Search Engines

www.kidsclick.org

www.ala.org/greatsites

www.dibdabdo.com

www.kids.gov

- Visit www.educationworld.com/tools_templates/index.shtml for many, many teacher tools and templates FREE
- **Microsoft Mathematics free Word Add-in** - provides an easy way to plot graphs in 2D and 3D, calculate numerical results, solve equations or inequalities, and simplify algebraic equations or inequalities in word. This add-in also provides an extensive collection of mathematical symbols and formulas (www.microsoft.com/downloads) FREE
- **Bing Translator** - online translation service for 35 languages (www.microsofttranslator.com) FREE
- Interactive Classroom - Don't have a promethean board with activates or activexpressions yet? This **Mouse Mischief** interactive classroom allows teachers to create interactive presentations with PowerPoint and a mouse for each student. (www.microsoft.com/showcase; then type in Mouse Mischief in the Bing search) FREE
- **WorldWide Telescope** - allows your computer to function as a virtual telescope. This program marries imagery from the best ground and space-based telescopes in the world. A web-based version is also available. (www.worldwidetelescope.org) FREE
- **Skydrive** - 25 GB of free online storage that allows the sharing of documents, photos, and Microsoft Office files. Documents can be password protected to control access to them. (<http://explore.live.com/windows-live-skydrive>) FREE
- **Dimdim 6** - realtime collaboration; Dimdim is an online program that allows live web meetings, training, conferences, and events where documents and whiteboards as well as video can be shared. (www.dimdim.com) FREE

There's an App for that! Educational Apps for the iPod, iPad, and iPhone

- **BrainPop** - gives short, new educational videos daily with quizzes FREE
- **Multiplication** - gives multiplication skills practice \$.99
- **SAT Vocab Challenge** - teaches the 250 most commonly tested words used on the SAT \$4.99
- **AlgebraPrep Graphing** - gives Algebra practice tests with instant feedback and instructional videos \$3.99
- **Free Graphic Calculator** - provides a fast way to do math on your device by allowing the input of formulas FREE
- **Math Drills Lite** - teaches basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division skills as well as how to solve problems using number lines, etc. FREE
- **The Chemical Touch Lite** - provides a periodic table and provides mass, density, melting and boiling points, and radius, etc. at your fingertips FREE

DID YOU KNOW... that when you purchase a perpetual license of Microsoft Office, you are allowed to activate the software on two (2) computers and use the software for the life of the computer? (A perpetual license is a full, licensed version of the software purchased from an authorized retailer or from the Microsoft website.) If you purchase Microsoft Office Student and Teacher 2003, Microsoft Office Home and Student 2007, or Microsoft Office Home and Student 2010, the software can be activated on three (3) different computers. Please note that the Office software that comes installed on an original equipment manufacturer computer (pre-installed on a purchased computer) must be used on the computer which has the Office suite originally installed. Also note that any product key from a product key card can only be used on one computer. Find more information at <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/823570>.

DID YOU KNOW... that if you are a student or teacher, you can purchase Microsoft Office and Adobe products at a discounted rate? After proving that you are a student or teacher, you can purchase Microsoft Office, Adobe, and other products from www.journeyed.com. If you are a college/university student, you can purchase Microsoft Office Academic Professional from Microsoft.com from only \$79.95. From [journeyed.com](http://www.journeyed.com), Microsoft Office Academic Professional is \$99 and Adobe Acrobat Professional 9 is \$149.

TECHNOLOGY
SUPPORT SERVICES

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