

## IT AND ME—GRADE 9 CURRICULUM

**Standard:** Hardware and Network Technology (Purchasing a Computer)

**Time:** 6-8 hours

**Objectives:**

1. To introduce/review/discuss vocabulary necessary to be an informed user/buyer of a computer system.
2. To practice using the vocabulary with the parts of a computer system.
3. To practice buying a computer using the vocabulary and the Internet as resources.
4. To review the personal business letter format and write in paragraph format the description of a computer system.

**Setting:**

A computer lab with access to the Internet.

**Materials:**

1. Computer, printer access, Internet access
2. A basic computer book such as Computers Simplified from IDG Books is also handy.
3. Access to old pieces of hardware that can be opened, explored, and handled is helpful.

**Teacher Role :**

Discussion leader for the first section of the unit on vocabulary.

**School to Career Connection:**

It might be helpful to have a computer sales clerk speak to the class to aid in the understanding of computers.

**Notes:**

1. This unit is designed so that there are files placed on the network so they are accessible by students in the class. The instructions in the file *Unit Instructions* are designed for this set-up. The basic setup of the unit can be easily adapted.
2. I like to divide up the vocabulary so that the students are not doing all the definitions at once without reinforcement of discussion and demonstration.
3. It is difficult to keep with the changing technology “specs” and the internet addresses. This seems to be the most frustrating part of this unit.
4. I find it interesting that many students have little or no knowledge of the computer system they use at home.
5. The last update of this unit was May 2001. The material you really need to keep on top of is the *Computer Purchase Guidelines-*  
<http://www.zdnet.com/zdhelp/stories/main/0,5594,26111222-1,00> html is a good source.

