

## Why Your Child or Student Needs a Handheld Computer for School

While a student may not *need* a handheld computer to learn, at this point, handhelds are inexpensive enough, powerful enough, and offer enough educational software to make the case that handhelds - like books, paper, and other tools - are very important for learning. *Why?*

- 1. Students will not lose their work done on the handheld.**  
*Why?* Work is automatically saved and backed up on the Internet or desktop computers when synchronized, typically each class day.
- 2. Students will likely read more.**  
*Why?* Although more research needs to be done, virtually all teachers report that their students spend more time reading on their handheld than they did previously with books.
- 3. Students will likely write more**  
*Why?* Many students enjoy typing. Also, it's easier to revise work when it's in digital format.
- 4. Students will collaborate more.**  
*Why?* The ease of "beaming" work from one handheld to another makes sharing opinions and collaborating on assignments easy and fun.
- 5. Students need to become familiar with handheld technology.**  
*Why?* Almost every sector—from law to construction to medicine — is adopting handheld technology. Our next generation of learners needs to understand this technology.
- 6. Students will be more motivated to learn.**  
*Why?* Learning is more effective, and more meaningful, when students are actively engaged in the process. Handheld computers are tools from "their" generation and are more compelling and engaging.
- 7. Students will be able to express themselves in unique ways.**  
*Why?* Using a handheld, students can complete assignments such as traditional essays, as well as create artwork, animations, or other visual representations on their own device.
- 8. Students will have equal access to technology (including the Internet.)**  
*Why?* The affordability and portability of handheld computers means more students can have access to identical technology, and with greater frequency.

The handheld computer of today is not a *GameBoy*<sup>®</sup> or simply an organizer. The typical handheld computer is similar in power to a desktop computer of the mid to late 1990's. Technology that previously cost \$3,000 and weighed 40 lbs. now costs \$200 and weighs 4.4 ounces.

**GoKnow** is the premier provider of educational resources for handheld computers.

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