Back to School Prep – Internet Advisor Tips

So, it’s Back to School time. With back to school, we also have technology going back to school. So for students there are certain things that are needed for back to school. While this is applicable for all students, I am going to focus on College bound students.

Technology –

Laptop computer – A must I don’t think you can do college without a computer these days. You need to make sure of a couple of things with laptops.

1. Make sure you buy a good enough computer. Too cheap and they will probably break or fail. At same time you don’t have to buy the most expensive one either.
2. In most cases the student wont be carrying a traditional brief case style laptop bag. Usually it’s a backpack. So get a backpack designed for a laptop with the appropriate section in it with cushioned areas for laptops and or tablets. Once again spend enough for a good enough backpack. It going to be slung around and put down roughly so you want one that is going to stand up to rough usage.

Proptection –

1. Check with your agent for your homeowners insurance as to what coverage is provided for technologies like laptops and tablets while away at school. You want o have it protected from “all perils” in my opinion. The extra cost for the insurance rider may be less than you think. One company offered the additional protection for as little as an extra $25.00 per year on the homeowners policy.
2. The student will need to be able to backup the data on the laptop. There are a few ways to take care of that.
	1. Online backup. This is using an online backup service. That way every time the student connects to the Internet, a backup is started. Good protection in case of hard drive failure or worse the loss of the laptop altogether.
	2. External Hard drive and cloning software. Buy an external USB hard drive at least the same size as the internal hard drive in the laptop. With cloning software the student can backup their entire hard drive and have it just in case of a drive failure with the laptop. Safety tip, store the hard drive away from the laptop so you don’t lose both.
	3. USB Flash Drive are good for saving small projects upon. Easy to copy to and easy to store.

These simple tips will help to make the student’s college experience from a technology standpoint easier to survive. Also when the your student calls you to say “Hey my hard drive crashed and I was working an essay or thesis what am I am going to do? “ you can say “I will get your computer fixed, just have your ackup ready to restore when it’s done”. That way they can continue to carry on without much interruption. Nothing is worse than losing a lot of hard work and having no way to recover any of it.