

Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) Offer Performance, Productivity For Students

Powerful Pocket-Sized Tools That Allow Students To Be Organized, Productive, Connected And Entertained Are Reducing Backpack Clutter Across The Country—And Make Great Gifts

(NAPSA)—Today's students carry a heavy load—and not just when it comes to classes and after-school jobs. Many schools have banished storage lockers to minimize hallway congestion, forcing students to lug books and other supplies all day.

Students may lighten their load and be more productive by using personal digital assistants (PDAs) such as the Windows-based Pocket PC.

Jared Miniman, a student at Cornell University, uses a T-Mobile Pocket PC Phone Edition. "A student's life is pretty chaotic; this really saves me time and reduces the notebooks and electronic products I carry," Miniman said.

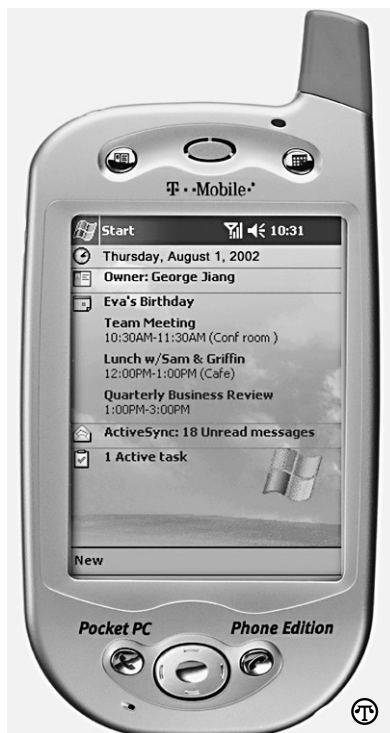
Students say PDAs help them juggle school, work and their social lives and use these devices for school assignments and appointments, research on the Internet, listening to music, and communicating with family and friends. New low-cost devices, some less than \$200, can run or come equipped with Pocket versions of the applications used on PCs: Pocket Word, Pocket MSN Messenger and Pocket Solitaire.

Because Pocket PCs are gaining popularity in corporations, integrating them into students' everyday lives now will benefit them in the long term. "Eventually my Pocket PC will be a life-saver in the business world," Miniman said.

The popularity of PDAs in schools is part of a larger trend reflected by the expected growth in worldwide shipments of handheld computers in 2003 by as much as nearly 15 percent (as estimated by independent research firm Gartner Dataquest).

Today, Pocket PC software is available from a wide range of hardware companies, including Dell Computer Corp. and HP. Here are some factors to consider before buying:

- Don't buy an underachieving product. Until recently, most PDAs only performed basic computing. The Microsoft Windows Powered Pocket PC Phone Edition is a PDA combined with full phone and Internet browsing capabilities. Students can store digital notes while speaking to a caller. Avail-



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able devices include the AT&T Wireless Siemens SX56 Window Powered Pocket PC Phone and the T-Mobile Pocket PC.

- Choose a device that supports software students already use. Some PDAs require new software programs. Platforms that don't support the most popular applications make it difficult to share data and cumbersome to learn new software. The Pocket PC 2002 Phone Edition software, with one-touch dialing, comes with mobile pocket versions of popular Microsoft applications, such as Windows Media Player, Outlook, Word and Excel, for handling e-mail, calendar, contacts, word processing and spreadsheet functions.

- Consider price and value. ViewSonic's V35, Toshiba's e310, the Dell Axim X5 and Hewlett-Packard's iPAQ 1910 all are priced under \$300 and have fast computer processors and ample memory. These lightweight products weigh about the same as four batteries. Expansion capabilities, coupled with Microsoft's strong customer support, make the Pocket PC 2002 Phone Edition a terrific choice for busy students.