

April 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Comcast purchased NBC Universal. As part of this purchase, the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) required Comcast to offer discounted broadband Internet service to low income homes of students. This discounted service is currently scheduled to last three years and may be for longer. Additional **information about the program is available at <http://www.internetessentials.com/> or by calling 1-855-846-8376**. A summary of the offer, requirements to qualify, and overview of the application process follows for your convenience.

Summary of the Offer:

The discounted Internet service offer is for Comcast Xfinity Internet Economy Service at **\$10/month with no charge for the modem rental or installation fee, and no increases while you qualify for free or reduced lunch (Reduced lunch students added February 2012)**. This service currently costs \$30/month, an \$7 cable modem lease, and a \$25-\$90 installation fee. **The download speed is 3 Mbps and upload speed is 768 Kbps.**

Requirements to Qualify:

- Qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch under the National School Lunch Program for at least one child in your household.
- Have not subscribed to Comcast Internet in the last 90 days.
- Do not have an overdue Comcast bill or unreturned equipment.

Process to Get Approved into Internet Essentials Program:

1. **Parent or Guardian call 1-855-846-8376** and provide your name, address, zip code, primary phone number, social security number, and name of the school your child attends.
2. Comcast will then mail you two forms in a 5-7 day time period which you will need to fill out and return.
3. You will need two items to return with these forms:
  - Copy of acceptance letter into the Free or Reduced Lunch program, which is available from our **Food Service Department (781-326-7872)**. More information on the free lunch program and contact information is available at <http://www.dedham.k12.ma.us/lunch/>.
  - An official document showing your child is enrolled in one of our schools (examples include letters confirming registration or class schedule). If you don't have a document available, please contact your child's school to obtain one (**High School 781-326-4773; Middle School 781-326-6900; Avery 781-326-5354; Greenlodge 781-461-5989; Oakdale 781-326-5351; Riverdale 781-326-5350; ECEC 781-461-5978**).
4. Return the forms to Comcast and within 5-7 days you will be informed if you qualify for the Internet Essentials program.
5. Once approved Comcast will determine if your house has already been wired for service or if they will make an appointment with you to send out an installer to connect you. Either way, getting connected is free of charge. At the beginning of each school year, you'll be asked to send in a copy of your acceptance letter into the "Free or Reduced Lunch" program to continue the service.
6. Only after you are approved for the program will you receive information about the discounted netbook (small laptop) computer. The discount is about \$100 off the cost of a netbook which normally costs \$250. Specifically they are Dell or Acer Netbooks with 1.6 Ghz processor, 1 GB RAM, 160 GB Hard drive and 10.1" monitor with a Windows 7 Starter operating system. You cannot get the discounted netbook unless you qualify and sign up for the Internet service above. The purchase of the discounted netbook is optional.

**Additional information is available from the following website: <http://www.internetessentials.com/>. To speak to a program representative call 1-855-846-8376.** Dedham Public Schools does not promote one Internet service over another. This is not a school program and we are not responsible for the Comcast Internet accounts. At this point, no other Internet Service Provider is providing this kind of discounted service for low income families. If they do, we'll pass this information along as well.

The Dedham Public Schools has a K-12 Internet Safety curriculum. We hope you understand the tremendous educational benefits of Internet use both at home and at school. We hope you understand the dangers and the necessity for supervision of your child while using the Internet. We filter and monitor use closely at school. For more information, please visit <http://www.dedham.k12.ma.us/technology/>. If you would like to discuss Internet safety, please call me at 781-436-6900 or email me at [dlangenhorst@dedham.k12.ma.us](mailto:dlangenhorst@dedham.k12.ma.us).

Sincerely,

Don G. Langenhorst, Technology Director