

BY BRIAN NADEL

4 Chromebooks

Scholastic Administrator TechLab puts the latest in educational technology—from notebooks to projectors to interactive whiteboards to tablets—through their paces at our top-secret proving grounds. Our rigorous evaluations rely on a mix of benchmark tests, comparative measures, and subjective assessments. For more information about TechLab, see scholastic.com/administrator.

The Challenge: Choose the best Chromebook for the classroom or your corner office. They range from sleek, high-resolution models to solid, journeyman machines.

	DESCRIPTION	SPECIFICATIONS	BENCHMARK TESTS	PROS	CONS	RATING																						
ACER C710-2055	 <p>Acer's C710 starts small and light, but its enormous six-cell battery bulks up the back of the system to 1.6 inches thick. It weighs 3.2 pounds, has a hard drive that holds up to 320GB of school data, and boasts a Total Protection Module. At \$280, it is one of the cheapest Chromebooks you can get, but the system lacks Bluetooth, has a short Wi-Fi range, and lags on performance.</p>	<table><tr><td>Dimensions/Weight</td><td>1.6x11.1x7.9 in./3.2 lb.</td></tr><tr><td>Hardware</td><td>Intel Celeron 847/1.1GHz/4GB RAM</td></tr><tr><td>Storage</td><td>320GB hard drive</td></tr><tr><td>Display</td><td>11.6 in./1,366x768</td></tr><tr><td>Ports</td><td>3 USB 2.0, HDMI, VGA, audio</td></tr><tr><td>Price</td><td>\$280</td></tr></table>	Dimensions/Weight	1.6x11.1x7.9 in./3.2 lb.	Hardware	Intel Celeron 847/1.1GHz/4GB RAM	Storage	320GB hard drive	Display	11.6 in./1,366x768	Ports	3 USB 2.0, HDMI, VGA, audio	Price	\$280	<table><tr><td>Start-Up Time</td><td>20.3 sec.</td></tr><tr><td>FutureMark PeaceKeeper*</td><td>1,505</td></tr><tr><td>Battery Life</td><td>4:58</td></tr><tr><td>Compatibility</td><td>3/4</td></tr><tr><td>Wi-Fi Range</td><td>85 ft.</td></tr></table>	Start-Up Time	20.3 sec.	FutureMark PeaceKeeper*	1,505	Battery Life	4:58	Compatibility	3/4	Wi-Fi Range	85 ft.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Good price+ Includes TPM+ Lots of storage space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- No Bluetooth- Performance lags- Slow start-up- Thick, big battery- Short Wi-Fi range	★★★
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GOOGLE CHROMEBOOK PIXEL	 <p>Easily the sexiest Chromebook around, Google's Pixel is not only the best performer of the bunch, it also comes with 32GB of storage space, plus 1TB online. Its 12.9-inch, ultra-high-res screen is the largest of the bunch, it's touch-enabled, and it has a backlit keyboard. The Pixel makes an excellent case as the best notebook for teachers, but its \$1,300 price tag may be the stopper.</p>	<table><tr><td>Dimensions/Weight</td><td>0.7x11.7x8.9 in./3.4 lb.</td></tr><tr><td>Hardware</td><td>Intel Core i5 3427U/1.8GHz/4GB RAM</td></tr><tr><td>Storage</td><td>32GB SSD</td></tr><tr><td>Display</td><td>12.9 in./2,560x1,700</td></tr><tr><td>Ports</td><td>2 USB 2.0, DisplayPort, audio</td></tr><tr><td>Price</td><td>\$1,300</td></tr></table>	Dimensions/Weight	0.7x11.7x8.9 in./3.4 lb.	Hardware	Intel Core i5 3427U/1.8GHz/4GB RAM	Storage	32GB SSD	Display	12.9 in./2,560x1,700	Ports	2 USB 2.0, DisplayPort, audio	Price	\$1,300	<table><tr><td>Start-Up Time</td><td>6.9 sec.</td></tr><tr><td>FutureMark PeaceKeeper*</td><td>3,772</td></tr><tr><td>Battery Life</td><td>4:05</td></tr><tr><td>Compatibility</td><td>4/4</td></tr><tr><td>Wi-Fi Range</td><td>100 ft.</td></tr></table>	Start-Up Time	6.9 sec.	FutureMark PeaceKeeper*	3,772	Battery Life	4:05	Compatibility	4/4	Wi-Fi Range	100 ft.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Bright and rich touch screen+ Thin design+ Backlit keyboard+ 1TB of online storage+ Top performance+ Quick start-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Expensive- No access to components	★★★★★
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LENOVO THINKPAD X131E	 <p>Solid and built to survive rough handling, the ThinkPad X131e is the biggest and heaviest of the four. It features the best assortment of ports and a quick start-up time but lacks Bluetooth. Its \$429 price tag is midway between the cheapest and the most expensive Chromebooks, but Lenovo offers the incentive of an inexpensive \$69 upgrade to a three-year warranty.</p>	<table><tr><td>Dimensions/Weight</td><td>1.3x11.6x8.4 in./3.9 lb.</td></tr><tr><td>Hardware</td><td>Intel Celeron 1007U/1.5GHz/4GB RAM</td></tr><tr><td>Storage</td><td>16GB SSD</td></tr><tr><td>Display</td><td>11.6 in./1,366x768</td></tr><tr><td>Ports</td><td>2 USB 3.0, USB 2.0, VGA, HDMI, audio</td></tr><tr><td>Price</td><td>\$429</td></tr></table>	Dimensions/Weight	1.3x11.6x8.4 in./3.9 lb.	Hardware	Intel Celeron 1007U/1.5GHz/4GB RAM	Storage	16GB SSD	Display	11.6 in./1,366x768	Ports	2 USB 3.0, USB 2.0, VGA, HDMI, audio	Price	\$429	<table><tr><td>Start-Up Time</td><td>9.0 sec.</td></tr><tr><td>FutureMark PeaceKeeper*</td><td>2,420</td></tr><tr><td>Battery Life</td><td>5:19</td></tr><tr><td>Compatibility</td><td>3/4</td></tr><tr><td>Wi-Fi Range</td><td>90 ft.</td></tr></table>	Start-Up Time	9.0 sec.	FutureMark PeaceKeeper*	2,420	Battery Life	5:19	Compatibility	3/4	Wi-Fi Range	90 ft.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Rugged construction+ Good assortment of ports+ Quick start-up+ Long battery life+ Inexpensive extended warranty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Thick and heavy- No Bluetooth	★★★★★
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SAMSUNG XE303C12	 <p>It may not be the fastest or best-equipped Chromebook available, but Samsung's XE303C12 is fast enough and, at \$250, has the undeniable virtue of costing half what schools usually spend on notebooks. It's also the smallest and lightest of the four and includes a Total Protection Module. In the end, it's a bargain machine that's more than powerful enough for school use.</p>	<table><tr><td>Dimensions/Weight</td><td>0.8x11.3x8.0 in./2.4 lb.</td></tr><tr><td>Hardware</td><td>Samsung Exynos 5/1.7GHz/2GB RAM</td></tr><tr><td>Storage</td><td>16GB SSD</td></tr><tr><td>Display</td><td>11.6 in./1,366x768</td></tr><tr><td>Ports</td><td>USB 3.0, USB 2.0, HDMI, audio</td></tr><tr><td>Price</td><td>\$250</td></tr></table>	Dimensions/Weight	0.8x11.3x8.0 in./2.4 lb.	Hardware	Samsung Exynos 5/1.7GHz/2GB RAM	Storage	16GB SSD	Display	11.6 in./1,366x768	Ports	USB 3.0, USB 2.0, HDMI, audio	Price	\$250	<table><tr><td>Start-Up Time</td><td>10.0 sec.</td></tr><tr><td>FutureMark PeaceKeeper*</td><td>1,210</td></tr><tr><td>Battery Life</td><td>5:15</td></tr><tr><td>Compatibility</td><td>4/4</td></tr><tr><td>Wi-Fi Range</td><td>100 ft.</td></tr></table>	Start-Up Time	10.0 sec.	FutureMark PeaceKeeper*	1,210	Battery Life	5:15	Compatibility	4/4	Wi-Fi Range	100 ft.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Small and light+ Inexpensive+ Good battery life+ Small power adapter+ Includes TPM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2GB of RAM- No internal access- Performance lags	★★★★★
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*FutureMark PeaceKeeper (peacekeeper.futuremark.com) is a benchmark that exercises all aspects of the systems, from rendering animation to playing an assortment of videos.