



Kramden Institute, Inc. Frequently Asked Questions – Tech Scholar Awards

What are the requirements for nominating a student?

1. The nominated student must be in grades 3 - 12.
2. The nominated student should be chosen by an educator for their hard work and dedication to their studies. (*A nomination form must be filled out by the educator for each student.)
3. The nominated student must not have access to another working computer in their home.

Kramden only awards one computer per household. Siblings may be nominated together.

What kind of computer does the student receive?

The default operating system is Ubermix which is a Linux based OS.

All desktop computers awarded will include:

- Processor: 1.8 GHz dual core
- At least 2 GB of RAM
- 160 GB Hard Drive
- CD ROM drive
- Ethernet card
- Keyboard
- Mouse
- 2 power cables
- LCD monitor and VGA cable

Kramden awards a limited number of laptop computers to students in high school. These computers are \$100 and payment is required at time of pick up.

What kind of software is included with the computer?

Ubermix (Default OS Load):

Ubermix is a Linux-based operating system designed with the needs of education in mind. Ubermix takes all the complexity out of student devices without sacrificing the power and capabilities of a full operating system. Ubermix comes with more than 60 pre-installed applications including: LibreOffice, Stellarium (virtual planetarium), Virtual Microscope, Scratch (programming and content development), Klavaro (typing tutor), Tux Math Games, Skype, and Google Chrome. Ubermix is virtually virus proof and also includes a 20 second quick recovery mechanism.

When can an educator nominate students?

Nominations can be completed at any time. Kramden awards computers during all 12 months of the year. Kramden awards approximately 4,000 computers a year.

Is there a limit to the number of nominations one school or one educator can submit?

No, however in-school award days are suggested for awards of 30 to 80 computers.

How are computers distributed to the students?

1. Kramden Award Days at our headquarters in Durham (usually monthly)
Student nominations are added to an award list on a roll-in basis. The nominating teacher will receive an award letter to distribute to the student a month before the award day. The student and family must then make an appointment to pick-up their computer. Once the student arrives to Kramden on award day, they are paired up with a volunteer who will show them how to set up their computer and will give them basic instructions on how to access various software programs. A volunteer will help them load their computer into their car.
2. In-school Give-Aways
Give-aways of 30 to 80 computers can be arranged to take place at school. Schools will be responsible for a shipping fee to get the computers to the school. Kramden uses TROSA moving who charges a very reasonable fee. Those interested in this type of give-away should contact Kramden for more information (cdelmairiani@kramden.org).

Are Kramden computers free?

Yes, however Kramden is a non-profit organization that relies on donations. Schools, especially those nominating large numbers of students, are encouraged to develop fundraising events or seek funds through the PTSA or community businesses and organizations. Schools that choose in-school award days must pay to ship the computers to the award location. We use TROSA Moving and they charge a very reasonable fee.

Can the computer be connected to the internet?

Yes. The computer is ready to connect to the internet through a cable, satellite or DSL modem. Before the student can access the internet they will need to contact an Internet Service Provider (ISP) for assistance and specific information regarding internet cost and accessibility in their area.

What happens if a recipient's computer breaks down?

Kramden Institute offers free technical support to students who are awarded desktop computers as long as they are enrolled in school (laptops come with 1 year of tech support). Students may call Kramden for technical support (919-293-1133) and we will decide if the problem can be fixed over the phone or, if the student lives locally, brought to our office for repair.

For those located beyond the local region, we recommend schools identify a local technical support option for students. Examples include a school IT instructor, a local computer vendor or repairperson, etc.