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Staples Offers Great Deals on the Latest Tech Products and Services for Back to School

FRAMINGHAM, MASS. (July 27, 2009) – Back to school shopping no longer just means pencils and paper. Families of school children and college students expect to spend \$18.3 billion on electronics this year – including laptops, home computers and cell phones – accounting for 38 percent of the \$47.5 billion that will be spent on all school supplies, according to National Retail Federation data. Staples, Inc. (NASDAQ: SPLS), the world's largest office products company and top retail destination for back to school, offers not only a great selection of the latest tech products, but also a full range of repair and support services from Staples® EasyTechSM.

This year, Staples is making it easy for students to go back to school with great deals on the latest laptops, desktops and more from leading brands such as HP, Dell, Toshiba, Sony and Acer. Among the values at Staples are the **Dell Inspiron 15.6” Notebook Computer** (at times as low as \$549, everyday low price \$699), pre-loaded with Microsoft® Office Home and Student software for added convenience and the **Acer 14.1” Timeline Notebook** (at times as low as \$549, everyday low price \$699), thin and light for easy transport to and from class. Staples carries a full range of laptops and desktops from the leading brands to address the needs of students and help them find the right computer at the right price.

With the purchase of any new computer, parents and students will receive more than \$500 in coupons offering savings opportunities for wireless networking, printers, accessories and more. Additionally, Staples is offering savings opportunities on Microsoft® Office Home and Student 2007, with \$20 instant savings and free installation; and Norton 360, with 50 percent off and free installation. For a limited time, customers can save by purchasing both Microsoft® Office Home and Student 2007 and Norton 360 together for the low price of \$119, with installation included.

“Computers are a necessity for today’s students and shoppers are looking for technology values that will help them maximize their budgets to afford everything their children need for going back to school,” said Jevin Eagle, Staples executive vice president of merchandising and marketing. “At Staples, we’re not only providing great discounts on our newest selection of computers, but Staples EasyTech also offers a full range of protection and services to keep computers running smoothly throughout the school year.”

When shopping for a new laptop or desktop computer for back to school, service packages are important for ensuring that students have the protection they need, especially when they are away from home. For parents sending new students off to college, Staples has a **Free Year of Protection** (4 years of tech service and protection for the price of 3), including 100 percent parts and labor coverage and one-time replacement if a laptop cannot be repaired. Staples is also currently offering a **Semester of Service package** (\$99.99) with 6 months of unlimited online support, including virus and spyware removal, PC tune-ups and more.

Staples also has the latest in technology gear and accessories to get students ready for the back to school season. The **BUILT® Hoodie Laptop Case** (\$39.99), available in black and micro dot patterns, extends the life of computers by protecting them from nicks and dents when transporting computers to and from school and study groups. Students can transport files, pictures and more with the **Omnitech Color Changing USB Flash Drive** (\$9.99). With a 2GB storage capacity, the drive changes color from red to orange or blue

to purple through heat transfer. The **Microsoft® 3000 wireless optical notebook mouse** (at times as low as \$19.99, everyday low price \$29.99) comes in a variety of colors, letting students express their own personal style. The **Logitech® QuickCam® Communicate MP™ webcam** (at times as low as \$39.99, everyday low price \$52.99) lets college students upload videos and stay connected with friends and family through easy video calling capabilities.

The National Retail Federation survey found that families of school children are expected to spend an average of \$167.84 on electronics this year, or 30.6 percent of their anticipated \$548.72 spending for all school supplies. College student's families are expected to spend an average of \$266.08 on electronics, or 43 percent of their anticipated total of \$618.12 on school supply spending.

To see the all-new assortment of the latest laptops, netbooks and desktops from all the best brands for back to school or to learn more about Staples EasyTech services, visit www.staples.com/computers. For additional information on Staples EasyTech services, visit www.staples.com/techservices.

See store for details for terms and conditions around Free Year of Protection and Semester of Service package offers.

About Staples

Staples, the world's largest office products company, is committed to making it easy for customers to buy a wide range of office products, including supplies, technology, furniture, and business services. With 2008 sales of \$23 billion and 91,000 associates worldwide, Staples serves businesses of all sizes and consumers in 27 countries throughout North and South America, Europe, Asia and Australia. In July 2008, Staples acquired Corporate Express, one of the world's leading suppliers of office products to businesses and institutions. Staples invented the office superstore concept in 1986 and is headquartered outside Boston. More information about Staples (Nasdaq: SPLS) is available at www.staples.com.