

Computer Hardware & Software Notes:

Computer Hardware

- **Monitor** – primary device for **displaying** information from the computer
- **Tower** – metal **casing** that holds all of computers **components**. For example: motherboard, hard drive, etc.
- **Keyboard** – the primary device for **entering** information into the **computer**
- **Mouse** – the primary device for **navigating** and **interacting** with the computer
- **Processor** – **sends** and **receives** information, completes **tasks**, makes things **work** smoothly
- **RAM** – Random Access **Memory** – makes things **easier** for the computer to **access**
- **ROM** – Read **Only** Memory – small **memory** chip only used at **start up**
- **Hard Drive** – stores **data** inside a computer
- **USB Ports** – Universal **Serial** Bus – most widely used **interface** for connecting **devices** to a computer



Computer Software

- **Software** – a set of **programs** and **procedures** that are intended to perform some **tasks** on a computer system; makes computer **useful**
- **Operating System Software (OS)** – **software** system that enables the computer **hardware** to communicate and **operate** the computer **software**. Without the OS, the computer would be **useless**.
 - Four types of operating systems:
 - Windows, Mac, **Unix**, Linux
 - **Software Application Programs** – set of **instructions** that tell the computer what to do – used to accomplish specific **tasks** like manipulating text, numbers and **graphics**. For example, making a **letter**, working in a **spreadsheet** or creating a slide **show** or movie.
 - Five types of application software:
 - Microsoft Word, Microsoft **Excel**, Microsoft PowerPoint, **Movie** Maker, Accelerated **Reader**