

# Computer Basics

## Terms to Know

Hardware—The physical components of the computer. This include the mouse, keyboard and storage devices.

Software—The programs that are downloaded onto the computer.

Operating System (OS)—Helps the hardware and the software work together. Most devices will not work without an OS.

RAM—Random Access Memory. This is the amount of space that the computer has to do its work. More RAM means a computer can run more and larger programs.

## Types of Hardware

### Computers and Laptops

#### PROS

- Work with most software
- Have full-sized mouse and keyboard
- Lots of storage and memory

#### CONS

- Can be large and heavy
- Lots of wires and hardware

### Tablets

#### PROS

- Touchscreen capabilities
- Highly portable
- Many have good cameras

#### CONS

- Small screens and keyboards
- Small amount of storage and memory

## Apps and Programs

Apps (applications) and programs are software. Without them, your computer would not be able to do anything. Popular apps and programs include internet browsers, word processing programs and media program.

Word processing programs allow you to create, edit and share documents. Docs are a type of file. Several similar files can be grouped together to create a folder.