

## Computer Lit. Terms:

**AGP-** Accelerated Graphics Port

**Bandwidth** The carrying capacity- the greater the bandwidth the more data the bus, phone line, or other electrical path can carry. Increased bandwidths also result in greater speed.

**Baud** Transmission rate in sending data from one computer to another- In bits per second.

**Buffer** A temporary storage location in the computer's memory.

**Bus** A data pathway

**Bug** An error in a program.

**Cache** A temporary storage area for data that will be needed often by an application information is stored in SRAM rather than DRAM.

**Cursor** A blinking line or box on the monitor showing the user where they are.

**Database** A program that saves data (facts) like a filing system.

**DIMM** Dual In-line Memory Modules - are faster and have more capacity than SIMMS and do not need to be installed in pairs.

**DMA** Direct Memory Access - Sound Cards, Keyboards, etc. may access the memory without involving the CPU.

**File** Data or programs stored on a disk.

**Hardware** The physical components of the computer.

**HDD** Hard Disc Drive- fast moving, high volume, magnetic storage device.

**IRQ** Interrupt Request

**ISA** Industry Standard Architecture- 8 or 16 bit bus.

**Local Area Network** (LANs) System that allows PCs to connect to one another. (We have a local area network in this class.)

**Mainframe Computer** The largest, fastest and most expensive kind of computer.

**Massively Parallel** Computer Architecture that links hundreds of thousands of inexpensive microprocessors together to perform many operations simultaneously.

**Mhz** The measure of speed used for a microprocessor. Millions of clock cycles per second.

**Mips** Millions of instructions per second.

**Monitor** The display device on a computer

**Operating System** The program that tells the computer how it will work. DOS, Windows NT, Windows 98, Linux, Unix are all OS's. We use Windows 2000.

**Parallel Port** Transmits the bits of a byte on eight different wires at the same time. (That is in parallel form)

**PCI** Peripheral Component Interconnect- 32 bit local bus

**Pixel** Point of light on the screen.

**RGB** Red/Green/Blue the primary colors of the computer.

**Serial Port** Transmits the eight bits of a byte along one wire and receives data on another single wire. (In serial form - one after the other.)

**SIMM** Single In-Line Memory Modules - most common form of RAM Must be installed in pairs and are not as fast or as capacious as DIMM chips

**Software** Programs and data that are stored in the computer.

**Spreadsheet** A program that performs mathematical operations on numbers in large arrays.

**Supercomputer** The fastest of the mainframe class of computers.

**Workstation** High performance microcomputers usually networked together.

**VGA** Video Graphics Array- Usually 640x480 pixels or greater.

**ZIF socket** Zero Insertion Force- CPU is lightly placed and the metal lever pulls it into place.