

Parents' Association's Tips for Book Buying

Buying books new from MBS Direct offers one-stop shopping. Many parents do not mind trading the cost-savings of book buying alternatives for this convenience. If cost-saving is important to you, however, you might want to take a few minutes to review some options.

To illustrate potential savings, here is an example:

1. Go to MBSdirect.net.
2. Enter "Germantown Friends School"
3. Click on the highlighted link for GFS
4. Click on "order your books"
5. Click on "pay by credit card"
6. On the right side of the page, click on "shop by course," then click on the box for "mathematics."
7. In the second column click on "1620 precalculus."
8. You will quickly see that there are three options for purchasing this book from MBS: (1) buy it new; (2) buy it used; or (3) buy it electronically. (Note: The electronic version is only activated for six months so you may need to repurchase the book if your child will be using it for a full academic year.)

There are other book-buying options that may save you money as well:

1. On the MBS website, just under the boxes that list the book's price from MBS, click on the link for "marketplace." As you scroll down, you will see that you can purchase the book in a variety of conditions ranging from "new" to "acceptable." Using the precalculus book as an example, you can buy it new from MBS's marketplace for more than half the cost of buying it new from MBS.
2. Alternatively, using the book's ISBN number as listed in the "details" section of MBS' site, you can buy the book either new or used from another bookseller, such as Amazon. Using amazon.com, copy and paste the book's

ISBN number into Amazon's search box and you will see options ranging from "new" to "good" condition.

Prices of books may change over time, but the *process* for buying books – whether from MBS or another bookseller – will stay the same.

If you buy books from a "marketplace" seller it can be useful to note the ratings and comments regarding the seller's reliability, shipping time and shipping fee. Also, if you buy more than one used book from a single bookseller, the bookseller might be willing to charge a single price for shipping. You can determine this by emailing the bookseller directly using the link listed on the site.

Lastly, books can be resold to MBS at the end of the school year (regardless of from where they are purchased) if MBS knows the books will be used again the following year. Those originally purchased through MBS will be bought back at a higher price than those purchased outside of MBS.