



iPad Frequently Asked Questions

Why do students need their own device?

- iPads offer access to online books, databases, textbooks, audio & video files so students can access instruction in a variety of formats.
- A device offers students access to the Internet via our wireless network.
- Mobile computer and working “in the cloud” are valuable skills and common in today’s educational and work environments.
- A personalized computing device ensures equitable and consistent access to technology for all students.

Why does it have to be an iPad?

While there are many great device options available, after researching laptops, netbooks, and other tablets, we decided that iPads are the best learning tool for our particular school. Also, iPads are the most widely used tablets in education.

Other specific advantages of the iPad include:

- Long battery life
- Mobility for teachers to walk around the class for grading and answering questions
- Utilizing the iPad is easy for all subject areas, from working out math problems to interactive social studies quizzes and tests
- Reading is easy and mimics a real “book”
- iPads have the broadest availability of subject specific apps
- Fewer pieces/components on iPad compared to a laptop or other device help us steward our maintenance and technology support costs
- iPads have the capability to go truly paperless, replacing textbooks and allowing students to submit work electronically

Why can't I buy my own iPad?

Each student pays the technology fee which includes our iPad lease program, allowing each student the use of the school-owned iPad. The fee includes not just the device itself but the infrastructure, bandwidth, software, wiring, rugged case, educational apps, maintenance, security, management console and all the other background items that need to be put in place to support the iPad. Based on our research with other schools, we have determined that it is best for the school to own and manage the iPad as an educational tool, just as we own and manage our textbooks and other educational tools.

Is it okay to download my own games and music onto my iPad?

No. The iPad is to be viewed as any other piece of school property, like textbooks or desks. Just as we do not allow students to “personalize” desks, the iPad will be managed by the school and will contain the apps and resources that teachers require. Teachers will seek out apps to download onto iPads that are relevant to learning materials, and students are welcome to suggest ideas as well.

Will the iPad replace all those cumbersome textbooks?

We hope so! Currently students use iPads for science, history, and math, along with some language arts texts. The iPad provides a unique venue for multimedia texts, and we want to take full advantage of those capabilities.

Aren't kids already overexposed to technology?

We believe that one of our responsibilities as a school is to help students become smart users of technology. Your child's teachers will help by using the right tool at the right time. Sometimes it makes sense to work a problem out with pencil and paper. Sometimes it's important to listen to a teacher lecture and give information. And sometimes it's important to use a mobile computing device to find the best answers, sift through mountains of information, collaborate with other students in a team, or create something to demonstrate deep understanding of a concept. We want the students to use the iPad as an additional tool in their educational process. We don't believe that iPads are the solution to all educational issues. They are tools, as are your students' graphing calculators, compasses, rulers, and paperback novels.

How will you ensure that students are using the iPads appropriately and not playing games or using them for non-educational purposes?

We are not allowing students to download games or other apps at this time to help students not be distracted by their iPads. Just as usual, if a student is off task during class and not doing what the teacher has asked them to do, there will be a consequence for that behavior. The technology team at Hope has worked hard to filter content at school and to restrict some settings on the iPads to help students stay on task.

How will the students be trained on appropriate use of the iPads?

Before and after we distribute the iPads, students will be taught about maintaining an appropriate and safe online presence, how to use the iPad effectively with the volume of information available, and how to set up and maintain the iPad.

What happens if a student drops an iPad and it accidentally breaks?

Families are responsible for the cost of repair of the iPad or replacing the iPad if applicable.

K - 5 grade students will have iPad Air devices. As of August 2020, the fair market value of the iPad Air was \$100. Families are responsible for payment of this fee if the iPad is lost or if the cost of repairing the iPad is greater than that cost.

6 -8th grade students will have new iPads and Hope purchased AppleCare for those devices. If an iPad is lost, families are responsible for purchasing a new iPad. If the iPad is damaged, families will pay the AppleCare fee of \$49 which can be used twice during the lifetime of AppleCare.

Will iPad rules and expectations change over time?

Yes, absolutely. This is the sixth year that Hope School has utilized personal computing devices in middle school, and while we have done a lot of research to make the best decisions for now regarding iPads, we expect that adjustments will occur. We appreciate feedback from both students and families to help us make this the best possible experience for our students, and we rely on our families to work together with us as a school in this endeavor!