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St Francis de Sales COLLEGE

R-6 Community

Junior School iPad Program - 2017

The Year 2 to 5 classes are looking forward to an exciting year in 2017 with the students having the opportunity to make use of their iPads at school.

This will open up a 21st Century approach their learning that:

- provides access to the information resources of the internet
- is motivating and fun
- individualises learning
- builds digital literacy skills
- encourages lifelong learning beyond the confines of the classroom

Many students already have their own iPads and they will be encouraged to bring these to school during Week 2 of the first term. Some students do not yet have an iPad but they will be learning about how to use them along with the rest of the class. As Parents, you are able to "buy-in" at any time when you feel that you, or your child, are ready. For some families, this may give them the chance to shop around for the best deal.

For those of you who may be looking to purchase an iPad, we recommend the iPad Air with 16Gb and Wi-Fi. Older iPad models are also suitable. It is possible for the children to use an iPad Mini but the smaller screen makes it harder for the children to use at school.

Transporting the iPads to and From School

Students are encouraged to take their iPad home each night but parents may not feel confident for their child to do this at first. If you feel that your child is not yet ready to carry the iPad safely, please have a talk to their classroom teacher about an appropriate space where the iPads can be stored securely and charged in the classroom.

The iPads will not to be taken out of the classroom during recess and lunch times.

Installing Core Applications

You will be asked to install a group of apps from the App Store which will be the core applications that we will be using regularly in the classroom for different subjects and different learning activities. Many of these are free but some of them need to be bought. The total cost of these initial apps will not exceed $45. We will also be asking for extra free apps to be installed over time to meet the needs of particular learning activities or topics. During the year we may ask you to purchase additional paid-for apps. This will only occur at the beginning of a new term and would never be for more than $10 each time.

Installing Other Apps

The apps that can be installed on the iPad are not limited to those that are on the school app list and you and your child may wish to include other apps that are for education or just for fun. It would be expected, however, that these are not used at school. An exception could be made for educational apps which may be used to support the learning in the classroom and your child could speak to his or her classroom teacher about this.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do you download apps?

- Once the iPad is connected to a Wi-Fi network, apps can be bought through the app store. When you download your first app, you will need to create an Apple account. If the first app you get is a free app, you can choose "none" for credit card details and then the account is not linked to a credit card.

How do I pay for them?

- Buy iTunes cards and them redeem them on the App Store. This will add the dollar amount as credit to your account. When this amount has been used, you won't be able to buy any more paid apps although free apps are still available. We recommend that you keep your Apple account password confidential and do not share it with your child.

What if I don't have access to Wi-Fi at home?

- Apps can also be purchased through iTunes on your computer via its internet connection. If this is not possible, you will be able to use the school Wi-Fi network to download the apps that are needed. Feel free to discuss with your child's teacher an appropriate time for this.
- For the children to complete their homework using the iPad, WiFi access would be an advantage, although many apps don't need internet access and most tasks can be completed without it.

How much download quota will it use?

- Downloading and installing all of the core apps will use approximately 2 GB and you may need to take this into account if you have a monthly download limit on your internet plan. Once again, you will be able to use the school Wi-Fi network to download the apps if this is a concern for you.

How do students share their work with the teacher?

- The students can share their work with the teacher using, Edmodo and OneDrive. This can be done from home via Wi-Fi or at school at any time.

What if my child doesn't have an iPad yet?

- The children will be able to complete their work in class using their books in the normal way.
- A number of extra iPads are available for the children to use for around 2 or 3 lessons each week.

How will the iPads get from home to school?

- Ultimately, we are working towards the children being able to bring their iPad to school in the morning in their school bag and then bringing them into the class ready for their first lesson. Teaching the children about safe placement of bags and respect for personal property will be a part of this along with teacher supervision in the mornings. If you have any concerns about this, please discuss with your child's teacher an alternative safe storage place for the iPad before classes begin in the morning.

What do I need to do at home?

- The iPad should be plugged in to charge each evening so that the battery is full and ready for the next day.
- It is recommended that you, as parents, discuss with your child appropriate and responsible use of the iPad. This could include how much time should spent on the iPad, where it should be used (family spaces rather than bedrooms), and what are age appropriate games and internet sites.

What accessories do I need for the iPad?

- It is important that you organise an appropriate protective cover for the iPad. You may also wish to get a protective case for transport to and from school.
- Other possible accessories could include a separate keyboard and stylus, although these are not required.

Internet Safety and Appropriate Use

As part of the iPad program, the students will be learning about the responsible and safe use of digital technologies and a set of protocols and expectations will be put in place to support this. We strongly recommend that you, as parents, restrict your child's access to the Apple ID password. This allows you to control which apps are installed on the iPad and to restrict access to instant messaging and photo sharing.