

Genesis Prep Christian Academy

iPad Information 2013-2014

What?

The iPad

An iPad is a portable computing device (tablet) that students will be using at Genesis Prep in the upcoming school year. It has the ability to do what most computers can do, and it accesses the internet via a Wi-Fi connection. There are currently several models of iPad available: All High School students (grades 9-12) and possibly Middle School students (grades 7 & 8) will be required to have and use an iPad2 (or newer), or iPad Mini as a necessary school supply beginning in the 2013-2014 school year.

Two Options for the iPad

As the iPad is such a uniquely individual device, the advantage of each family purchasing, owning, maintaining and individually customizing the iPad will be to the student's benefit throughout their educational career here at Genesis and beyond. Families who provide their own iPad for will be eligible for a \$100 tuition discount for the 2013-2014 school year.

For families who do not wish to or are unable to purchase an iPad for their child(ren), Genesis will have iPads available to check out for the school year. These devices will remain property of the school and be subject to the school's iPad contract.

Information Meeting

If you are not able to make the Spring Update meeting on March 13th, GPA will be having another meeting for families who have questions about next year's iPad integration. Please join us on **Tuesday, April 9th, 2013 at 7:00pm.**

Application Purchases

Application (or App) purchases will be made through a family's personal iTunes account or purchased by the school and issued to students. iTunes is an Apple owned and operated website which allows for the purchase of many different types of digital media, such as books, movies, music, and applications. Some of the media is free, while some must be purchased. Purchasing can only occur through an iTunes account which is connected to a credit card or iTunes gift card.

These purchases will belong to the family for life, and will be backed up on the family computer or via the internet (iCloud). Genesis would like to encourage students to personalize the iPad with their own content; however, we reserve the right to inspect any iPad at any time for the appropriateness of the content, which must adhere to the school's behavioral policies. As eager as students may be to start purchasing personal applications for productivity now, Genesis is asking families to patiently wait. Century will provide a list of suggested application purchases before the start of school, but we are also waiting for improved software which this new market is continually producing.

Cover/Memory/Replacement

Century suggests the purchase of a protect cover for students iPads. Students will be required to use a virtual memory space for work, which can be acquired for free from providers like *Dropbox* or *iCloud*. Students will then be able to access their school work from any internet connected device, including the home computer, and the iPad.

Insurance

One of the terms of the Genesis iPad Contract will be that the family will be responsible for a \$50 insurance premium each year and a \$50 deductible should the iPad be damaged or stolen. Please refer to the Genesis iPad Contract for more information. Parents who purchase their own iPad are strongly encouraged to purchase insurance from a 3rd party company (www.worthavegroup.com recommended), that covers breakages, spillages, and theft (with a police report). Prices are normally dependent on the cost of the iPad.

and more information can be found online.

Battery Recharging

Students will need to charge their iPads on a nightly basis, in order to be prepared for school the next day. Classrooms will not be outfitted with charging stations, as one of the major reasons for choosing the iPad as a computing device is its wireless portability, and thereby its ability to adhere to fire code in a school setting. However, some power stations in safe, non-trafficked areas will be set up on campus for emergency charging.

Moving to a digital environment

The answer to this question is another question: will today's students inherit a world that is more digital or less digital than the one we live in now? The iPad is being used to make a simultaneous transfer to a truly digital environment. Next year, Genesis students will sit at their desks, turn on their iPads, login to their student accounts, and navigate to their class using GPA's SIS (Student Information System) called *RenWeb*. Each class will have the daily material in a digital format, on *RenWeb* and the web available to students 24/7 provided they have internet access. Students will then use the iPad to read, research, and produce assignments for grade completion, even completing some assessments.

New tools are being developed

Because Genesis is at the cutting edge of going digital in a Middle School environment, many of the tools needed to be completely digital are still being developed--for example, digital textbooks. However, Genesis has diligently spent the 2012-2013 school year preparing for our 1:1 launch, and while not everything can be done digitally, a great deal can be, with each year building to greater and greater digitalization.

Good stewardship

Not only is Genesis preparing students for their future by going digital, we are attempting to lead by example in being better stewards of our financial and natural resources by cutting down photocopying costs and waste, to help make family tuition dollars go further.

FAQs

Do I need to have Wi-Fi at home for the iPad to work?

No. It's nice, but students can get around not having Wi-Fi at home by getting what they need from the internet while at school. Worst case scenario, students can access free public Wi-Fi at several local businesses including *Starbucks, McDonalds, etc.*

Does this mean my son or daughter doesn't need to use our home computer?

No. Your son or daughter may need to use a computer in conjunction with the iPad. The iPad is good for short-term creative processes, while the computer is better for long-term creative processes, like, for example, writing a 10 page report. If you do not have a home computer, the school has computers available in the lab for student use.

Do I need to have an iTunes account?

Yes. In order to purchase any of the necessary Apps, you will need an iTunes account. If you do not want your son or daughter to have the freedom to make purchases from that account, you can keep the password hidden from him or her, so that your son or daughter will have to ask you to make any purchases. iTunes accounts work equally well on Apple computers and PCs.

Do we need peripheral devices?

Your son or daughter might like to use some peripheral devices, such as a stylus or wireless keyboard. Styluses range between \$5 and \$35; a stylus never runs out of ink. However, all Apps will work with a finger instead of a stylus--the stylus is just nice for neatness and precision.

Will there be digital textbooks?

Digital textbooks are being developed for the iPad at a very rapid rate with Apple's iBooks announcement in January 2012. We are unsure, at this time, how many titles will be available by the start of next school year. GPA is committed to the highest quality text available for our students and although we are eager to adopt as many digital texts as possible, we will not do so at the expense of sacrificing quality and educational excellence.

Will I need to give my son or daughter special training on the iPad?

No. We have found that all students in our test cases have found the iPad to be intuitive enough that it doesn't require special training. (But you might want to ask your son or daughter to give you some training-- they tend to pick these things up a little faster than the adults do.)

As a parent, do I need to know how to use an iPad?

No. But we encourage parents to play with their son or daughter's iPad. Touch devices seem to be the way of the future, and this one's rather robust, while at the same time, elegant and efficient.

Will the iPad improve my son or daughter's grades?

No. Hard work still does that, as it always has. The iPad is simply the tool that GPA has chosen at this time in order to make our digital transition. The iPad does however have the ability to increase a student's personal organization, communication, creativity and engagement in the learning process. If the net result of all of that is an improvement in a student's grades that will be the icing on the cake!

How will the iPad affect the classroom experience?

The iPad empowers teachers to do more than they could have in the past. We are looking forward to the broad horizon of new experiences that our teachers can bring to the classroom through the iPad.

Behavioral and Spiritual Concerns

Appropriate behavior

Though the project that GPA is embarking on is exciting and full of potential, we realize that using digital media, and having constant access to the internet, requires certain behavioral standards, which themselves have spiritual ramifications. With this in mind, GPA will be instructing students on what appropriate behavior looks like when dealing with digital media, defining and discussing issues such as social media, copyright, referencing sources, inappropriate humor, and many other digital disciplines. In addition, we will be devoting some chapel periods to discuss how scripture is connected to the manner in which digital devices are used, and what a Christian ought to do, and ought not to do, with digital devices that can access the internet.

***Genesis Prep would like to thank their partners in Christ and education, both Monte Vista Christian School and Vacaville Christian School for their leadership and openness in helping GPA transition into 1:1 iPad integration for students. Their models of excellence and collaboration have been invaluable and are greatly appreciated!