

St. Matthew's Lutheran School

1:1 iPad Program – FAQ

Education is no longer bound by the limits of the teacher, textbook, or the books in the school library. At St. Matthew's Lutheran School we are committed to preparing our students for the 21st Century.



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Q. Why Apple?

A. An iPad is personal, powerful and versatile.

Stability – the iPad operating system has the reputation of being robust and intuitive.

Security – the Apple App Store tests all new apps before releasing them to the public, ensuring no inappropriate content appears.

Continuity – Apps perform the same way on all recent versions of the iPad, making it easier to cater to a variety of devices over time.

Support – the AppleCare Protection Plan provides 24/7 telephone support, software support and technical support.

Curriculum – The Department of Education iPad Trial (education.qld.gov.au/smartclassrooms/documents/enterprise-platform/pdf/ipad-trial-report.pdf) has collected evidence regarding the benefits of iPads in education. An iPad enables both students and teachers to capture, test, collaborate and share learning content and knowledge.

Q. How can iPads improve learning?

A. 21st century learning involves critical, technical, collaborative and problem solving skills. Through the iPad program we can provide opportunities for children to question, explore, interact, and create answers to important questions about God's created world. There is a growing body of research indicating its potential for improved learning outcomes (See: www.ipadsforeducation.vic.edu.au/pubs/ipads-for-learning/2017-ipad-trial). Both students and teachers are able to connect, collaborate, capture, test and share through the use of a personal device such as the iPad.

Q. How often will the iPad be used during school and for what?

A. "Anytime, anywhere, but not all the time"

St. Matthew's Lutheran School places an emphasis on students using technology to assist and improve their learning. Students having a iPad for anytime, anywhere learning to take place, does not necessarily mean they will use their device all day every day. While the iPad should be able to handle most of a student's computing needs, it is certainly not intended to replace a laptop/desktop device. The iPad is a companion device. The advantage of the iPad is its mobility and ease of use, so it is the perfect tool to take to class. This is a technology rich world and students are surrounded by digital technology. Schools can either use this technology to engage students in learning or ignore it. Staff and students work together to use iPads as a tool, which develops the student as an information seeker, analyzer, evaluator, problem solver and decision maker. Students use applications to create ways to communicate their findings and become publishers of their own work.

Q. What are the educational benefits of iPads?

A. Research suggests that most students already own and use digital tools on a daily basis for their educational, social and personal needs. At St. Matthew's Lutheran School, we believe that it is our responsibility as a school to keep up with technological change.

Q. What about handwriting?

A. Students will continue to write with paper and pen and work to improve their handwriting as well as use the keyboard.

Q. Is it compulsory for my child to have an iPad?

A. Yes, it is a piece of classroom equipment necessary for each student in grades 5-8 to have.

Q. We already have an iPad. Can that be used instead of buying a new one?

- A. Yes. If you already have an iPad 2 or later model, your child can use it as their device. Please be aware that traditionally Apple will only support the two most recent models of their devices (currently the iPad 4th generation and the iPad Air), with software and hardware updates and support. An iPad Mini is also a good option for the iPad program.

Q. Which iPad model should I buy?

- A. This is a personal choice, however, we do strongly recommend you think of the long-term investment when selecting your child's iPad. The model (iPad2 or 3, iPad Mini), and the size (16GB-64GB) are entirely up to you. The most common device students have at St. Matthew's is the 16GB iPad Mini.
New for 2018-19 - Be sure that the iPad you select is able to run IOS 10 or above!

Q. Should I get the 16, 32 or 64GB?

- A. GB stands for "Gigabytes" (GIG-a-bites) and refers to the volume of data the device is capable of storing. For school use, a 16GB model should provide ample capacity. The more applications, pictures, music and movies you want to store permanently on the device will determine the model.

Q. Do I need to buy a case to protect the iPad?

- A. Yes. We strongly encourage you buy a case for your child's iPad in order to protect the device from damage. The iPad is a very robust device and can take a decent knock, however they are not indestructible. Students need to be cautious of not damaging their device and a case will certainly assist them in looking after it. We recommend investing in an iPad case.

Q. What apps should I purchase so my child is ready for school in 2018?

- A. Each teacher is responsible for determining the apps that will be used in a given year.

Q. Can the iPad open MS Office docs such as Word, Excel or PowerPoint?

- A. Yes, all new iPads come with Pages, Numbers, and Keynote and can open all standard Word, Excel, and PowerPoint files.

Q. Can I back up my child's iPad on a PC?

- A. The iPad connects to either a Mac or a PC via iTunes. It doesn't matter what you have at home. The iPad will sync, backup and talk to both Windows PC or iMac desktops and laptops. We recommend that students regularly back up the iPad on a home computer in case of damage or theft. If a student forgets their passcode this can be reset from the computer with which it was last synced. Information about the restoring and backing up iPads can be found at the Apple website <http://support.apple.com/en-au/HT201252>.

Q. Will my child be downloading apps at school?

- A. Yes and no. At St. Matthew's Lutheran School, we encourage a flexible download agreement between you and your child, as it is important that they have the ability to, at times, download free apps during classroom sessions. With the latest IOS Update, Apple has enabled the ability for students to download free apps without the need for a password. Students will never be required to download paid apps during class time. Students are taught how to use their iPad and download apps responsibly. Parents can also set various controls through the 'Restrictions' setting on the iPad.

Q. Can parents control the use of the iPad at home?

- A. Yes. The use of the iPad and time spent on it will be entirely up to the parents to negotiate with their child. We strongly encourage you set clear time limits on its use during home time. The Internet has many benefits and risks and it should not be used by children without adult supervision and parental control. It is expected that students bring their iPad to school every day.

Q. Will students need iTunes accounts to use with iPads?

- A. Yes and No. An iTunes account is needed to download and install apps from the App Store. You require an Apple ID to create an iTunes account. We strongly recommend that parents/guardians create and set up the iTunes Account and support students in managing app downloads. IOS now allows students the flexibility to download free apps without the need for the iTunes password. This can be set up in the 'iTunes & App Store' setting on the iPad. This setting does not allow students to download paid apps or make 'in app' purchases.

Q. Does an iTunes account require a credit card for purchases?

- A. No. An iTunes account can be created without a credit card. See <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT204034>.

Q. What about sound, music, pictures, games or programs?

- A. The use of sound and music will be at the classroom teacher's discretion. Students are encouraged to have headphones or earbuds at school to use when the teacher deems it suitable. Music is allowed on the iPad and can be used at the discretion of the teacher.

Q. How will iPads be kept secure?

- A. The security of the iPad is the responsibility of the parent outside of school hours. The school is secure during the school day.

Q. How should the iPad be transported to and from school?

- A. The iPad should have a protective case. These will fit easily into school bags. Students must take their iPad home each night in order to complete homework and recharge the battery. When traveling to and from school, students should store the iPad in its protective case in their school bag.

Q. Will my child's eyes be adversely affected by looking at a screen all day?

- A. Your child will not be using the iPad in every class, so there will be ample downtime in which your child's eyes will be able to rest.

Q. What health and safety issues are associated with iPad use?

- A. Instruction on use of iPads will be presented to students at the start of each year. This will focus on good posture with attention to the position of the chair, desk and iPad. Generally, students will not be seated in the same place for long periods of time whilst using the iPad and are likely to take frequent breaks during the class and throughout the day. Evidence from other iPad programs is that the combination of educating students about good practice and young people's natural habit of changing posture frequently addresses the issue of health and safety.

Q. Will iPad use increase cyber-bullying?

- A. Like mobile phones, email and messaging systems, iPads can be in negative ways. It is essential that all members of our school community, students, parents and staff, are aware of this potential and understand the school's Acceptable Use Policy. Students will be educated about what cyber-bullying as part of the school's Digital Citizenship curriculum. Our school filter system allows e-mail and Internet access to be filtered and monitored. Instances of inappropriate behavior will be dealt with according to the school's Acceptable Use Policy and Discipline Policy.

Q. What happens if a child breaks the Acceptable Use Policy?

- A. All offenses will be investigated thoroughly with checks made to the child's iPad and school account. The iPads are for educational use at school not for personal use during school time. Students who use their iPads for inappropriate purposes or for game playing at inappropriate times risk having app removed or the iPad stored at the teacher's desk when not in use for class. Other consequences will be negotiated with parents according to the severity of the offense.

Q. The school monitors usage at school, but who monitors it at home?

- A. That is the responsibility of the parents. When off school grounds, parents have full authority to restrict device usage. Examples of this may include:
- iPad can only use in a family room and not in the bedroom
 - iPad can only use at certain times of the evening or weekend
 - iPad cannot be taken along on a trip
 - Examination of the documents and other contents of the device

Q. Will the iPad withstand handling by students?

- A. There are no moving parts within an iPad. Damage can however occur to the screen. The iPad is a very robust device and can take a decent knock, but they are not indestructible. Students need to be cautious of not damaging their device and a cover/case will certainly assist them in looking after it.

Q. What tips are there for looking after the iPad?

- A. Here are a few tips:
- Always use a case - they are designed to reduce the impact of drops.
 - Don't drink anywhere near your iPad (This includes family members)
 - Always ensure power cords are well out of the way to avoid tripping over them.
 - Have your iPad fully charged before bringing it to school.
 - Never leave your iPad in an unlocked car.
 - Never leave your iPad unattended in public, even for a short time.

Q. What if an iPad is damaged, lost or stolen?

- A. While the school will take care to provide a secure environment for those classrooms with iPads, we are unable to provide any form of cover for lost, stolen or damaged items. Depending on your home insurance cover, you may be able to add your child's iPad onto your policy as a portable device. AppleCare is another option to cover your child's iPad from damage. Children are not to have their iPad out of their bag before or after school and they are not taken outside during break times.

Q. Will the iPad be used in every class?

- A. The iPad will not necessarily be used in every class during the day, but it may be used within all subject areas. Obviously, some subject areas are more technology dependent than others, and different teachers plan different applications and uses. The iPads will complement the school's curriculum by providing appropriate digital learning tools in balance with other learning tools. Students will use the iPads where they serve a purpose.

Q. Will students receive support in setting up their iPads?

- A. Yes. Teachers will spend time with all students in their classes showing them the basics of the iPad and its operation and how it can support their learning.

Q. What level of IT support will St. Matthew's Lutheran School provide?

- A. Our staff will be available to support iPad users and their families. We will provide assistance with technical issues, such as ensuring that the student's iPad connects to the Wi-Fi network and all available services such as email. We will not undertake mechanical repairs. Parents/families are responsible for having devices repaired.

Q. Will the iPad battery last all day?

- A. Yes. The battery life will last approximately 10 hours. You can also go online to access tips for extending the battery life. Plan to charge the iPad at night as needed.

Q. Can the school's network handle the load of everyone using an iPad?

- A. The school has invested in a solid infrastructure to ensure that the network will be able to cope with the demands of all the students and staff having laptops/Desktops/iPads that require network access. We also monitor the network to ensure that it will run smoothly when all users are online.

Q. What if my question isn't answered here?

- A. Please ask! We understand that there may be some questions that have not been answered in this document. We welcome input from parents and students, and we would be grateful for any constructive criticism. If you have any further questions or concerns about the program please contact our Technology Director, Mr. Paulsen (epaulsen@smls.org), or your child's teacher. As a school, we see the use of the technology, primarily mobile technology, as an outstanding tool in assisting and complementing what the students are learning here at St. Matthew's!