



FAQ's Regarding VCS' iPad Project

1. Why iPads?

Technology and the future:

We are developing Christian leaders for tomorrow's world because we want Christians to lead tomorrow's world. Their future will be more digital than today, therefore they will need to be more comfortable with technology than we are today.

A. What amazing features do iPads offer to enhance the classroom experience, as a tool?

Teachers strive towards all students being involved throughout an entire lesson. The iPads are a fabulous classroom tool to supplement the extraordinary teaching our teachers do every day in the classroom. Nothing can replace teacher instruction, but this tool can increase opportunities for student engagement and student assessment while making learning more interactive and fun.

- i. Interactive ebooks are being developed by curriculum publishers, where textbooks are embedded with the ability to watch a video, listen to a speech, watch charts and graphs change as data is entered, showing progression, and much more...
- ii. Online quizzes that can be taken on the iPad, group results projected on the Smartboard for assessment and learning purposes, individual quizzes graded by the software and grades imported to the gradebook. This will save paper, provide instant assessment of student knowledge, and save teachers time.
- iii. Online submission, grading, and feedback are all possible - without paper and workbooks.
- iv. Ability to use the iPad as a "clicker" to submit student responses interactively and perform group assessment while displaying group results instantly on the board. This increases student involvement / interaction / "being on task" as well as providing valuable assessment data to the teacher.

v. Ability, with the appropriate “app,” for the teacher to see on their screen what is being done on each of the student iPads and project any individual screen on the SmartBoard to explain a difficult concept, demonstrate editing, or show a great example. With this benefit also comes an accountability for the students to not only be on task, but also to be following along with what is being taught.

vi. With the appropriate software, teachers will be able to project from their iPad screens to the Smartboards in the classrooms and demonstrate instructional capabilities, making it easier for the students to follow along and learn functions and applications.

vii. Capabilities iPads have that will be at our students’ fingertips as a tool to enhance classroom instruction:

a. Tutoring / Studying Applications are available for many subjects. There are over 6000 educational apps available and many of them are free.

b. Video and audio capabilities to enhance the learning experience

c. Scientific Calculator capabilities

d. Research capabilities at their fingertips.

e. Portable whiteboard for classroom assessment and tutoring

f. A reader: books and novels (many are free), textbooks

g. A Bible - Not just for Bible classes, but to enhance Biblical integration and facilitate spontaneous, teachable moments. Students will not need to bring a Bible to class because their Bible will be on their iPad and they can highlight and take notes in the margin as well as use a concordance, topical index, and a Bible dictionary.

h. A musical instrument (piano)

i. Access to current events (newspapers, periodicals) and sites like NASA

j. Reference materials at your fingertips: Periodic table, weights and measures, and unit converters for classes like science.

k. Language Lab capabilities (speak, spell, listen, translate, practice, games)

l. PowerPoint presentations can be made in the classroom with teacher interaction, assistance, and review of the product.

m. Calendar features are available that can include features currently in a school planner

iii. Helpful aspects of iPads that make them a good choice for our students:

- i. Power on/off - no wasting time booting up
- ii. Portable - easy to move from classroom to classroom and then to home
- iii. Balance of access and creativity
- iv. Battery life is very good. Likely charging will only be needed every 2-3 days.

II. Roll-Out Details and Timeline Questions

A. Will every student have their own iPad?

We have a 1:1 Implementation meaning that each student has their own iPad that they use, in grades 6th -12th. This is not an iPad lab like a computer lab, but an iPad in each student's hands. We have an iPad classroom lab for grades 4th and 5th grade. We anticipate introducing iPad labs for the lower elementary grades in the near future.

B. Will the students still have textbooks in the classroom?

Yes! While there is an initial trend among curriculum companies, to make an ebook version of their textbooks, the Interactive textbooks are the new wave of the future, and they are simply not available yet for most of our courses. We anticipate than 2-3 years from now that they will be available for most publishers that we use. We will continue to use traditional textbooks in the classroom.

III. The Financial Questions:

A. How much will this cost?

Below is some financial information to help you plan your purchase.

Apple Store: Apple iPad2 w/WiFi- 16GB: \$399.00

Two Year AppleCare Coverage: \$ 79.00

Leather cover (Apple Store): \$ 69.00

**** Two-Year Accident/Theft Coverage: \$100.00**

Apple offers various financing plans. See www.apple.com/ipad for details. Insurance coverage would have to be renewed and paid upon expiration.Two-Year Accident Coverage can be purchased by visiting: <http://www.worthavegroup.com/ipad>. *Apps are not included in the above totals. A list of the necessary apps will be given to all students. Total required Apps fees are estimated at \$50 for the school year, but may be more or less depending on grade level requirements.*Technology fee is in addition to iPad costs. Please refer to your Tuition and Fees guide. Annual technology fee per student is \$100.**

B. Will all students, in the grades this is implemented in, be required to have an iPad?

Yes! We are going to use them, interactively, with the students in all classrooms.

C. Will I need Internet access in my home Yes!

Some things can be downloaded and stored on the iPad prior to leaving school. Some things will require Internet access from home. The most convenient way would be to have Internet in your home and allow the iPad to connect to your provider via Wi-Fi. There is a free Wi-Fi finder application on the iPad that will help you to locate a nearby Wi-Fi network. Libraries, some fast food restaurants and places like Starbucks often have free Wi-Fi. for my son/daughter to use their iPad at home?

D. Will I need to have an iTunes account for my son/daughter?

While many young people have a family or personal iTunes account, items pertaining to their subject-area needs, would go through the school's iTunes account and be loaded onto the iPad by the school. If the family wanted to download appropriate, additional items to their iPad, they would need their own iTunes account. Parent monitoring and supervision of what a student may be able to download from home will be very important.

III. The Security Questions: How will the school prevent the students from downloading inappropriate material onto their iPads?

The iPads, while they are at school, will utilize the school's Wi-Fi service.

Our VCS firewall will provide a shield, as it currently does for all our computers, for the iPads as well, so inappropriate material should not be able to be downloaded. Parents will be asked to monitor what students are downloading at home and ensure it is appropriate. VCS' Internet Safety Use Agreement will also be updated to reflect a great deal of information that will pertain to use of the internet and what is appropriate on an iPad that is owned by the school or used at school. We are also looking into the capabilities and feasibilities of other ways to keep our students safer such as Filtering for iPads. One option is a Safe Browser (used to be called Moby SIP) which is good 3rd party app. There are other possibilities to consider such as blocking Safari (Mac's internet browsing application like Internet Explorer) using parental controls so that kids would use Safe Browser instead, Lightspeed that has a web browser that also can serve as a web filter, and Apple's app that allows you to lock which those applications you don't want to allow to launch.

IV. The Responsibility / Damage/ Loss Questions: A. How will you prevent the students from playing games or getting to areas of the Internet that are inappropriate? With the appropriate software, the teacher can see what each student is doing on their iPad from their own iPad once they are logged into the classroom. her in every class. Our teachers will need to walk around and be visible so as to be aware of what each student is doing in the classroom.

The accountability there is very helpful. In addition, the appropriate classroom protocol for using iPads will have to be taught, monitored, and enforced by every teacher.

Our VCS firewall provides a level of security for all VCS computers that will be extended to the iPads that will be on our Wi-Fi network. This is one reason for choosing the Wi-Fi iPads instead of the 3G iPads. We desire to protect each of our students and keep them safe at school.

B. What if my child spills lunch on their iPad, drops it, it stops working, or becomes missing?

We will be including a protective case with each iPad to help protect it from damage if it is dropped while the case is properly fastened around it. We will definitely want to teach and model security for the iPads while at school and during transportation of them before and after school.

The insurance policy on each VCS laptop that costs approximately \$45/ year (and a part of the bundle price) will cover accidental spills.

AppleCare, the Apple Inc. policy, will cover situations where there is equipment failure. Apple Care has provisions in its insurance that may assist, in the event of a loss, but only if a police report is filed.

There is a security system we are looking into that can be installed that registers each iPad with a special number. This allows each iPad to be traceable by the Police Department in the event of theft/ loss, once the iPad has been turned on and the Internet has been accessed.

V. The Technology Questions:

A. Which machine will the school be purchasing for this program?

There are many iPad options available. Memory ranges from 16, 34, to 64 Gigabytes. The 16gb iPad provides sufficient memory for educational needs.

For Internet access, there are both WiFi and 3G options available. For internet safety, we will purchase the Wi-Fi iPads. This will allow our current safety filters and firewalls to be in place, just as they are on our desktop computers that are available to the students.

B. Will these machines be obsolete in 3-5 years?

While there is always something new coming out on the market, the life expectancy for a computer is typically several years, because the device itself is not what needs to be updated, but rather the software. There will always be new features to hardware, but the iPads will still be effective in the classroom for many consecutive years, due to the ability to update software and the longevity of the hardware/device itself.