

## **iPad FAQs for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents**

### ***Why is the school doing this? What are the benefits?***

- iPads are a tool for learning, exploring, and creating within the curriculum. Students will use them for research, reading, writing, communicating, and collaborating.
- iPads are an age-appropriate device for upper elementary grades providing access to a vast array of information sources and a wide range of productivity tools.
- The built-in camera and recording features enable rich use of multimedia within the curriculum, and the variety of innovative apps on the iPads will enrich and extend existing curricular projects.
- Many of our teachers have been exploring the use of iPads within their subject areas, and are excited by the potential for innovative learning projects with their students.
- iPads provide greater opportunity for hands-on creative learning which align with our approach to teaching and learning.
- It was time to refresh our computing resources in the Brick Building and iPads have fewer moving parts than laptops, longer-lasting batteries, power up instantly, and have a lower price point.
- This project will enable much more seamless “anytime/anywhere” use of technology when appropriate within our classrooms, instead of using separate computer labs with significant scheduling restrictions.
- We want students to develop fluency with age-appropriate digital tools supporting their intellectual skills including information/media literacy, analytic thinking, innovation, creativity, and digital citizenship.
- The multimedia aspects of iPads support multiple learning styles including visual, auditory, and tactile learners.

### ***Who is paying for the iPads?***

- The school is paying for the iPads, cases, and applications.

### ***Will the children be carrying the iPad back and forth from school to home or to other places?***

- In the beginning of the school year as we start this pilot project, the iPads will stay at school. When we reach a point that teachers believe students have gained the ability to properly transport the iPads, and there are assignments necessitating use of iPads, students will begin bringing them home. We will communicate with parents well before this happens.
- The iPads will be carried by students to “specials” classes in other buildings on the campus, such as Spanish, science, and music when those classes are doing iPad-related projects.
- The students will be carrying the iPads on certain field trips off-campus that incorporate the use of the camera, recording, and note-taking apps.

### ***What will happen if my child breaks the iPad? Will I be charged for it?***

- In the beginning of this pilot the iPads will only be at school, and the school is responsible for ensuring the children take good care of the iPads and any damages will not be charged to families.
- Once the iPads start being carried home, the family will be asked to bear some responsibility for taking good care of the devices...
  - In the first occurrence there is a \$50 fee for damages or \$100 fee for theft or loss.
  - In subsequent occurrences, the family may be charged up to the full replacement cost, depending on the circumstances.

***If my child's iPad is not working, who will help fix it?***

- The school's technology department will deploy and maintain the iPads, just like other school technology resources.
- Teachers, students, and parents can access iPads troubleshooting tips on our help site.
- Teachers and the tech department will facilitate the general use and upkeep of the iPads in the classrooms.

***Will my child have a loaner iPad if needed?***

- Yes, if an iPad needs repairs, students will have access to a limited "loaner pool" of spare iPads.

***Where will the iPads get charged up?***

- Charging docks in 5th/6th grade classrooms

***Who will monitor my child's use and ensure it is appropriate?***

- The iPads will be used in the context of classroom projects with teachers supervising the activity.
- If the iPads travel home in the future, we will communicate with parents about appropriate use and monitoring at home.
- The school has a standard web content filter in place that prevents access to most objectionable material on the internet.

***Will the iPads be equipped with cellular data connections?***

- No, the iPads will not have 3G or 4G. They will only go online when connected to a wireless network.

***How will the iPads be kept secure?***

- The iPads will be stored securely in the classrooms.

***What if my child already owns an iPad? Can s/he bring it into school instead of using the school one?***

- Your child is welcome to use a personal iPad to complete assignments at home, but for consistency's sake, and as we begin this initiative, we don't want personally owned iPads coming into school.

***What if my child already has a laptop? Can s/he bring it into school instead of using an iPad?***

- We believe that most in-school computing needs will be met with the school-owned iPads. If there are compelling reasons for a child to use a laptop at school, we will discuss them with the family and the school's learning specialists.

***What happens when my child goes to Middle School? Will the iPads also go there?***

- No, the iPads are a Lower School resource and will remain at Lower School. Middle School provides the computing resources for its students. Middle School students typically feel a greater need for a full-featured laptop, such as an Apple MacBook. Some families choose to purchase a laptop for their child as they enter Middle School. For more information, please visit our advice page:  
<https://sites.google.com/a/bbns.org/tech/help-sheets/advice-on-computer-purchases>

***I'm concerned about my child's "screen time" and digital distractibility. How will you address this?***

- The iPads will only be used for academic projects under the guidance of teachers.
- We seek to build students' experiences with technology that contribute to intellectual development and positive habits of use. If we see students using the iPads at odds with these goals, we will restrict that usage and apply appropriate consequences.
- If this pilot program develops to the point that the iPads may travel home, we will address the issues that might come up with screen time at home, appropriate use, and internet filtering.

***Whom may I contact if I have more questions about this pilot program?***

- Please contact Demetri Orlando, Director of Information Technology, if you have any questions about this initiative. Our contact information is online at:  
<http://www.bbns.org/about-bbn/directory>.

***For further reading: Why iPads?***

- <http://kulowiectech.blogspot.com/2012/04/why-go-11-ipad.html>
- <http://edtechteacher.org/blog/2012/04/why-ipad-thoughts-from-the-edtechteacher-team/>
- [http://edtechteacher.org/index.php/teaching-technology/mobile-technol<iframe width="560" height="315" src="http://www.youtube.com/embed/VpbMV5Oq4z4" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>ogy-apps/ipad-as](http://edtechteacher.org/index.php/teaching-technology/mobile-technol<iframe width=)