

# The 1:1 iPad Program at La Salle Prep

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Why 1:1?**

La Salle Catholic College Prep is committed to harnessing our students' energy and enthusiasm for technology and innovation. The 1:1 initiative is designed to direct that energy toward 21<sup>st</sup> century learning as students become high level communicators, thinkers and problem solvers. Students must be well versed in the essential skill areas of complex communication, new media literacy, collaboration, creativity, responsible digital citizenship and self-directed learning.

Mobile learning will be used to access information beyond the four walls of the classroom. Students will analyze and research information, communicate ideas and thoughts, and collaborate with other learners.

### **Why iPads?**

The iPad is the mobile learning device that best allows our students to communicate, collaborate, and interact with the vast store of educational resources. Far more educational resources are created for the iPad versus other mobile devices, and it is the most efficient platform to manage. It is the device that best augments our rigorous and relevant curriculum.

After extensive research, consultation and evaluation our administrative team decided to adopt the iPad as our personal computing device. While our faculty remains our first and best resource for the education of our students, we are enthused about the level of engagement, interactivity, connectivity and organization that iPads bring to our educational program.

### **Who needs to have an iPad?**

All students attending La Salle in September, 2014, must have an iPad on the first day of school. Students must complete the required technology orientation and have their device registered with the school by September 2.

### **What if we already own an iPad?**

There is no need to purchase another iPad if your student owns an iPad that meets our minimum specifications.

### **What about accessories or cases?**

We require students provide a case or cover for their iPad. We suggest purchasing the optional warranty program through Apple or insurance protection through Apple. Earphones, stylus and keyboard are optional.

### **Who will pay for the device?**

Families will need to purchase a new, used or refurbished iPad or iPad Mini as they had previously purchased text books.

### **Will La Salle provide financing for these devices?**

We are working with a local financial institution to develop a financing program that will provide an affordable financing option for our families. We expect to announce this program on or before March 1, 2014.

### **Where should we purchase the device?**

We are currently working with a local retailer to provide special pricing for La Salle students on the iPad, protective cases, and insurance options. Once this program is in place, we will announce it to our community. We expect to make this announcement on or before March 1, 2014.

Families may purchase the device from the retailer of their choice or online from Apple, which at this time provides free shipping, free engraving (student's name), and possibly free 6-12 month financing.

### **Will my student be able to bring a comparable tablet, PC or e-reader?**

No, students will not be able to use a non-iPad device. The Apple iOS operating system is significantly different than other operating systems. The iPad is the best device currently available for teaching and learning activities for our students. It has a number of design elements that meet our needs, such as its long battery life, flat profile, touch screen and robust app developer community.

### **I have more than one child attending La Salle. Can they share an iPad?**

No, each student will need to have his/her own iPad, as the device will be used in the classroom as a part of curriculum across all academic disciplines.

**What about textbooks?**

We are committed to using the best materials for each learning environment. Academic departments, with the approval of the Administration, will select materials for each course, including iBooks, e-text, apps and other electronic resources. A comprehensive list of the resources required for the 2014-15 school year will be available April 1, 2014. It is our goal to reduce the cost, weight and burden of textbooks.

**Will there be any cost savings by requiring iPads?**

Use of electronic resources will significantly reduce the cost of materials as textbooks give way to apps, digital texts, and other online sources; many of which are low-cost or free. La Salle has further endeavored to significantly reduce the financial burden traditionally associated with textbooks by limiting the costs of the majority e-texts and iBooks to \$20 per resource. Exceptions may include Advanced Placement or college level courses.

**Student Safety:**

Our campus wireless infrastructure was installed in 2012. Internet filters are in place to limit students' access to inappropriate web content and exposure to viruses. We will also require students to allow La Salle to install a mandatory profile that blocks access to inappropriate content while utilizing the campus network. Teachers will help students understand the importance of developing responsible digital citizenship.

**Which iPad do I buy?**

While La Salle has a recommended configuration based on what we think is most suitable for a student to have in our program, we do understand that cost, length of required use (9th grader vs. 12th grader) and screen size are considerations for many families.

Families are open to purchasing a configuration that works best for their needs. We have identified considerations and made recommendations on key aspects of this decision as a way to better help families make the most responsible choice for them.

- 1) 16GB vs. 32G etc.: La Salle recommends a 32GB device based on a projected e-text size of 2-3GB per text. While it is possible for a student to have a 16GB device and still be successful, it may require the student to limit their media storage and delete files, apps and e-texts more often. 16GB devices may be a cost effective option for seniors or juniors who only need them for 1-2 years.
- 2) Wi-Fi only vs. Wi-Fi+Cellular: La Salle recommends Wi-Fi only based on the availability of high speed Wi-Fi both at home and at school. Should a family decide to purchase a device with cellular capabilities, please understand that the student will need to disable cellular capabilities while on the La Salle campus.
- 3) iPad 2 vs. iPad 3 vs. iPad Air, etc.: La Salle requires a minimum of an iPad 2. Families should consider features and functional life (4 years for an incoming 9th grader vs. 1 year for an incoming 12th grader) when making a decision. Older models may not be able to support newer software features as they are released.
- 4) New vs. Used: Families are welcome to make a purchase based on their needs. Older models may not be able to support newer software features as they are released. If you are purchasing your product directly from Apple, both new and refurbished iPads come with a 1 year warranty.
- 5) Mini vs. regular: Families are welcome to make a choice on either one based on the needs of their family. We recommend that you go to a retailer and test both devices to determine what is best for you. Consideration should be given to the ease of the individual student typing on the mini screen.
- 6) Accessories for families include: Stylus, Bluetooth keyboard, etc. A protective case will be required in the fall. All other accessories are optional.