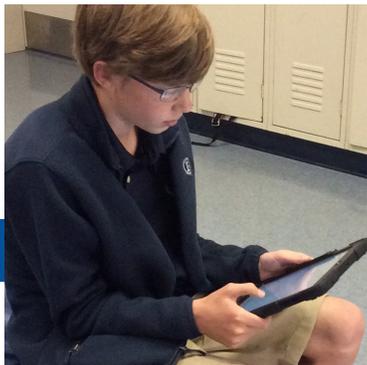


# BROOKSTONE MIDDLE SCHOOL

## TECHNOLOGY UPDATES for 2014-2015



### **We are pleased to introduce the 1:1 program to middle school for the 2014-2015 year.**

- The iPad Air has been named as our middle school device.
- An iPad 2 or later, 16 GB with Wi-Fi (minimum specifications) updated with IOS 7 will be compatible.
- Students should have their devices on the first day of school in August 2014.
- Information about iPad models, cases, warranty coverage, insurance, and more is available in this document.
- As a Google Apps for Education school, Brookstone will continue to provide email access for our students under the brookstoneschool.org domain.

### **GOAL:**

Our goal as we've progressed with technology in the MS has always been to find ways to enhance instruction in order to engage students.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL TIME:**

As we've explored and practiced with the laptops, we've realized that the biggest obstacle we encounter is time. If it takes too much time to execute the lesson or activity in class because of technical difficulties or technical set up, the teachers and students lose instructional/learning time, and frustration sets in on both sides. For the same reason, we did not choose a BYOD environment at this time. Figuring out each student's different tools, software, and programs can be a time-eater. Teachers will be able to plan and execute purposeful activities with more efficiency with the same device in each student's hands. iPads don't boot up, so the class time use and efficiency are very appealing.

### **GOOGLE APPS FOR EDUCATION:**

These tools are available on the iPad as well as whatever device students will move to when they enter US. This will be consistent as they move to upper grades.

### **TECHNOLOGY ISN'T THE FOCUS:**

The technology we put in the hands of the students is to be a tool. The goals are learning, organization, and engagement. We want to foster these things above all. Technological versatility and adaptability are essential skills, and we want to be careful not to limit our students' exposure to one type of device in an effort to be brand or type consistent.

### **DUE DILIGENCE:**

We've visited schools who use iPads in the classroom to see them in action and learn their capabilities. We've attended workshops and seminars focused on this and have determined that with iPads, our middle students will be able to do all that we need them to do and more. We've practiced with the available apps in each subject matter and are determining which will be best for our students and our learning environment.

### **DIFFERENCES BETWEEN UPPER SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

We've found a tool that we know will enhance student learning in MS. There may be a shift in logistics when they move to US, but it isn't one that should keep us from moving forward with a good plan for MS students. Our technology progression as a school is fluid and best serves our students and their learning when we are constantly examining it.

**COST CONSIDERATION:** We felt a huge responsibility to be mindful of the cost of the device we chose for the MS. We worked hard to choose a device that was appropriate for our students and what they need to accomplish first and foremost. When those specifics were narrowed, we then began to determine the most responsible way to go about this. iPads are fairly inexpensive compared to the laptops we considered, and they require much less maintenance on the whole.

### **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:**

Beginning in August 2014, Brookstone's 1:1 iPad program will include all middle school students. Students will be required to have an iPad 2 or later updated with IOS 7, 16GB with Wi-Fi. If your middle school student already has a full size iPad that meets the minimum requirements, he/she is welcome to use it. While the iPad Air is the recommended device for middle school, we will allow any student who already owns an iPad mini to try using it in a school setting before being required to purchase a full size iPad.

We want to make this transition as easy as possible. The iPads will be used as a tool for practice/reinforcement of skills, research, note-taking, accessing coursework, and collaboration. The student wireless network is protected by an effective website filtering program that restricts access to websites and web-based programs that are inappropriate for school use.

Individual teachers will continue researching and implementing ways to incorporate the iPad to enhance their curriculum. We continue to investigate electronic options that can be effectively utilized for our students and reduce the backpack load. Not all textbooks are available as e-books at this time. However, a growing number of textbooks and electronic instructional resources are becoming available and will be utilized by our faculty.

All app purchases will be the responsibility of the student; however, to avoid excessive expenses to our families, there will be limitations on the number/cost of paid apps teachers can require. The list of required apps (both paid and free) will be made available on the supply list for the middle school on the Brookstone website by August 1, 2014. There may be paid apps added throughout the year, but they will be carefully selected and approved by our iPad Implementation Team.

It is recommended that each child have his own Apple ID. This ID can follow students throughout their school years and provide them access to all purchases—school and personal—regardless of the device. You may set up a non-credit card account capable of redeeming paid apps only through the use of an iTunes gift card.

### **WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:**

By the first day of school in August, you will need to:

- 1) Purchase an iPad according to the specifications provided in the chart below. We strongly recommend the purchase of Apple Care+ or a third party warranty to keep devices in working order.
- 2) Obtain these required apps for your student:
  - Notability
  - Inspiration Map
  - Book Creators
- 3) Attend one of five scheduled student/parent iPad training sessions before school starts. Attendance at one of these sessions is **required** to ensure your middle school student is ready to participate in first day of school activities. Students should bring their iPads to the session they attend.

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- 4) Continue to partner with the school in teaching and monitoring appropriate use of technology at home—especially controlled and responsible use of the Internet.
- 5) Carefully read the Frequently Asked Questions section in this document for detailed answers to questions and links to access more information.

#### **WHAT IT WILL COST:**

Currently, the price on the iPad Air is \$499 for 16GB with Wi-Fi. (Compare models at [www.apple.com/ipad/compare](http://www.apple.com/ipad/compare))

New iPads come with one year of hardware repair coverage and 90 days of telephone tech support. AppleCare+ for iPad is \$99 and provides two years of repair coverage.

