



iLearning in the 21st century

Beginning in the fall of 2013, every student in grades six through nine will experience the excitement and benefits of twenty-first-century learning. All students in grades 6-9 will be required to own an iPad to use in the classroom, to collaborate with students and teachers, conduct research, and complete homework assignments. It will be an integral part of every Upper School student's work each day.

Why 1-to-1?

Pike students live in an increasingly interconnected and information-rich world. Our children will have to be skilled collaborators, able to combine multiple disciplines, and incorporate new disciplines into their repertoire throughout their lives. They will need to demonstrate creativity and innovation, as well as critical thinking when solving problems and making decisions. Technology-rich classrooms tend to encourage collaboration, inclusion, participation, and exploration. We want to cultivate twenty-first-century students. While using the iPads at Pike, students will focus on the following twenty-first-century skills:

Curation - develop skills that will help evaluate and organize vast amounts of information, so they can retrieve it later.

Creation - design and share information for global communities.

Collaboration - build relationships with others to pose and solve problems collaboratively and cross-culturally.

Communication - facilitate creative expression of knowledge and understanding through a variety of media.

We want students to become independent learners. The iPad is a tool that will allow them to search out information and begin to learn how to learn and also relearn information. We want to teach students to communicate with a global audience and to get and give feedback on their work from a global community. The National Council of Teachers of English recommends that twenty-first-century readers and writers develop proficiency with the tools of technology; build relationships with others to pose and solve problems collaboratively and cross-culturally; design and share information for global communities to meet a variety of purposes; manage, analyze, and synthesize multiple streams of simultaneous information; create, critique, analyze, and evaluate multimedia text; and attend to the ethical responsibilities required by these complex environments.

Why the iPad?

The iPad is the leading tablet in the industry and a popular choice in many schools. The iPad supports moving towards more student-centered learning by giving students a powerful tool to collaborate, communicate, search for information, and evaluate information. It puts the learning directly in the hands of the students. It is easy to use, supports many different learning styles, and is lightweight, flexible, instantly on, economical, and has a long battery life. Students will have access to the wealth of content on the internet, and the camera, video camera, and audio capabilities will allow students to show what they have learned in a variety of ways. As we move to digital text books and digital notebooks, students' backpacks will be lighter.

Why the iPad Rather Than a Laptop?

The biggest advantages of the iPad are that it is an internet-connected mobile device with a touch-screen and camera/video camera. Students are mobile, moving from class to class, and the iPad is light and easy to transport, yet it can connect to the internet, create documents, take and edit pictures, annotate pdfs, make and edit movies, and perform as an eReader. Students can read books, take notes, highlight text and bookmark pages, search a book, have a section read to them aloud, and have a word instantly defined. The iPad is instant-on (a laptop takes three minutes), which makes the transition from tech-on to tech-off activities seamless. As Muddy Waters points out, "When I ask students to use their laptops in my history class now, I have to waste up to five minutes, waiting for everyone to get up and running. The iPad is ready to go instantly." And the iPad is easy to learn and use, as well as having a battery that lasts an entire school day. Laptop batteries typically last only three to four hours. ☺