

July 22, 2011

Dear Parents of Class of 2012,

As your student may have told you, the Class of 2012 will be allowed and encouraged to bring and use a laptop/tablet/iPad type device in the classroom during the next school year. After evaluation of a pilot program this past year in AP Spanish with the iPad, the school is confident that these devices have the potential to enhance the student learning experience. The senior high faculty is preparing to modify their teaching styles to inject more use of these devices in their classrooms. More specific and technical information will be available on the website as the start of school approaches but I wanted to at least, hopefully, answer a few questions:

1. Is my student required to have a device? No, this is voluntary. Any specific requirements of the course would include use of school devices for those that did not have one. We believe, however, that the utility of the device will make it a valuable tool for your student to have.
2. Can my student use his/her cell phone for this function? No, cell phone use will still be prohibited during school hours. Larger devices will serve the activities we intend much better than a cell phone.
3. Will the students use these all day long? Not necessarily. Use of these devices will be governed by Prep's acceptable use policy as well as general policies developed by the school and by individual classroom teachers. These may include the impounding of the device for offenses if necessary.
4. How will this work? At the heart of this program is the fact that after the student's device is registered, they will be able to access the School's wireless network. This will facilitate a myriad of possibilities for collaborative work, communication, access to the tools on the School's network and the internet while in the classroom.
5. Will the device have to have 3G or 4G internet capability purchased from a cellular company? No, the device will only need the capability to interface with the Prep wireless network.
6. Do I need a new device? No, most devices manufactured in the last few years should have the capability to interface with our network (details related to authentication and encryption will be part of the information posted on the website.)
7. What about viruses? The school will require that all devices have anti-virus software programs installed before they are allowed to be registered. Information on free downloadable programs will be posted on the website.

I understand that this is only the briefest of information about this program. Again, as we approach the start of the school year more specific and more technical information will be available. Feel free to email any questions you might have to me at lanealey@jacksonprep.net . Thank you.

Luke Nealey
Head of Senior High