

General Information on the Shorewood iPad Initiative

Why did the district decide on iPads for high school students?

In 2006, Apple MacBooks were issued to high school students in a 1:1 laptop program. After five years of use, and based on recent repair data, it was determined that they could not be fully sustained for another year at both high schools. The technology levy that was passed in 2010 is designed to address a wide range of district technology services (staff computers, software licensing, network infrastructure, etc.) and could not fully cover the cost of replacing the laptops with new ones. In seeking a lower cost alternative that would provide students with a comparable level of access to technology, the district evaluated a number of options. These included netbooks, in-school only mobile labs, and tablets. After several pilot programs, and input from staff and students, the iPad was selected as the most viable of these alternatives.

Why is only Shorewood getting iPads in 2011-2012?

It was determined that the inventory of functional student laptops from the two high schools would be sufficient to sustain another year of 1:1 laptop access at one of the schools, but not both. Also, by deploying the iPads at just one of the high schools, district training and technical resources could be focused on supporting one staff and one student body to integrate the new technology into teaching and learning. The decision to place the iPads at Shorewood was based on a number of factors involving current programs and initiatives, impacts of the ensuing school construction projects, and others.

How is the district paying for this technology?

The technology is being funded entirely from the technology levy that was generously passed by voters in 2010, and which can only be used for technology related purposes. There is no impact on general fund resources that would affect class size, staffing ratios, curriculum materials, etc. Indeed, we hope that the additional technology will result in instructional efficiencies and opportunities to benefit the core instructional program.

What are some ways iPads will be used in the classroom?

Tablet computers have some distinctive differences compared to a laptop. In our piloting of the iPads, we noticed that there were some things that are easier to accomplish on a laptop (multimedia, video creation, organizing files), but there are other things possible on a tablet that cannot be easily done on a laptop (annotating documents, freehand sketching and notetaking, reading certain kinds of text). Given these differences, our goal is for students to do much of their daily types of computing tasks – such as basic writing assignments, accessing teacher web sites and class documents, tracking due dates and assignments, Internet research and notetaking – on the iPad with the knowledge that some tasks may require access to a laptop or desktop computer. For these tasks, Shorewood teachers will have access to some laptop carts that can be brought to the classroom.

Will students be able to access their iPad files on a personal or home computer?

Yes, but there will be some differences from past practice in how this occurs. In most cases, files created on the iPad will reside on the iPad and can either be emailed or uploaded to remote servers from which they can be downloaded to other devices or submitted to teachers. At the start of school, students will be taught how to access and use these services for file management. This will include strategies for students who do not have convenient wifi access outside of school.

Will there be fees associated with the iPads similar to the annual laptop fee?

There will be a fee for the iPads to cover the cost of a protective case and insurance against accidental damage/loss, but due to the lower cost of the iPad, this fee will be approximately half the amount (\$45)

that was charged for the laptops.

What if an iPad is lost or damaged?

These situations will be handled with the same guidelines, procedures, and policies as laptops. Accidental damage (description of accident required) or loss (police report required) will be treated as an insurance claim and will have a \$100 deductible to be paid. Damage or loss that is the result of abuse or negligence (liquid spills, leaving device unattended, etc.) will not be eligible for an insurance claim and will require payment of the full replacement cost - approximately \$500.

Are iPads expected to replace text books?

Digital versions of text books are increasingly becoming available from publishers, and we certainly plan to explore the potential of this technology. Not only do digital texts remove a significant weight from student backpacks, but they are easily updated and also allow students to highlight text and insert notes for later reference and studying. We are already working with several publishers who are preparing iPad-compatible versions of titles currently adopted by Shoreline, and anticipate that some of these will become available this year.

Will students be permitted to opt out of the iPad program?

Families can choose to have their child opt out of the iPad program, but there are some important factors to consider before selecting this option. Unlike with the opt-out laptops checked out to students when needed, students cannot simply save a file on a USB drive and take it home. Since much of the file management with the iPads is based on remote server storage, students with an iPad can set up their login info once and have ready access to these services. On a borrowed device, the student would have to enter this information for each online resource that may be used in a given class (and then delete the info at the end of class) - a potentially time-consuming process. We will continue to explore ways to make this process easier for those students who might consider this option.

What Internet filters or other security features will the district be using?

The iPads will be configured and managed by the district tech staff using a mobile device management tool. This will give us the ability to control permissions and settings, and to efficiently perform necessary updates when needed. Also, each iPad will be etched with district identification and will have a district barcode. Our current filtering service applies to all wireless devices on the district network. There are some methods to apply filtering for off-campus networks, but like all filtering products are not 100% foolproof against determined efforts to circumvent them. Information about requesting off-campus filtering will be available in September from the school tech office.

What peripherals and accessories will be provided?

Each iPad will be distributed with a folio-style case that offers protection to all surfaces of the iPad, folds into a stand for typing or upright viewing, and will put the iPad to sleep when it is in the closed position. The iPad also comes with an AC power adapter for charging the battery.

There are two other accessories that some students may consider purchasing on their own – bluetooth keyboard and capacitive stylus. Many iPad users are able to adapt to the onscreen keyboard, but some prefer to do more intensive writing tasks on a more conventional keyboard. In our piloting of the iPads, we tested bluetooth keyboards and found that while students found them more familiar and easier to use, the process of carrying and connecting an extra device offset was a negative. Consequently, we are leaving this option up to individual choice and trust that the lower fees attached to the iPad help make this a more viable option if desired. The stylus is an alternative to using one's finger for apps that allow for freehand sketching and handwriting. Like with the keyboard, many users

adjust readily to writing/drawing with their index finger, but some users may prefer the stylus which offers the familiarity of writing with a pen-like instrument. Keyboards can be purchased for less than \$30 and most styluses are in the \$10 range.

Can students print their work?

Printing on the iPad can be challenging to configure with some home configurations, but is possible. At school, students will continue to print from dedicated printing stations located in the tech support office and the library.

Where can I get more information?

More information, including forms, can be located on school web sites (starting in August), and on the district web site under Departments->Technology.