



FAQ's Regarding VCS' iPad Project

1. Why iPads?

Technology and the future:

We are developing Christian leaders for tomorrow's world because we want Christians to lead tomorrow's world. Their future will be more digital than today, therefore they will need to be more comfortable with technology than we are today.

A. What amazing features do iPads offer to enhance the classroom experience, as a tool?

Teachers strive towards all students being involved throughout an entire lesson. The iPads are a fabulous classroom tool to supplement the extraordinary teaching our teachers do every day in the classroom. Nothing can replace teacher instruction, but this tool can increase opportunities for student engagement and student assessment while making learning more interactive and fun.

- i. Interactive ebooks are being developed by curriculum publishers, where textbooks are embedded with the ability to watch a video, listen to a speech, watch charts and graphs change as data is entered, showing progression, and much more...
- ii. Online quizzes that can be taken on the iPad, group results projected on the Smartboard for assessment and learning purposes, individual quizzes graded by the software and grades imported to the gradebook. This will save paper, provide instant assessment of student knowledge, and save teachers time.
- iii. Online submission, grading, and feedback are all possible - without paper and workbooks.
- iv. Ability to use the iPad as a "clicker" to submit student responses interactively and perform group assessment while displaying group results instantly on the board. This increases student involvement / interaction / "being on task" as well as providing valuable assessment data to the teacher.

v. Ability, with the appropriate “app,” for the teacher to see on their screen what is being done on each of the student iPads and project any individual screen on the SmartBoard to explain a difficult concept, demonstrate editing, or show a great example. With this benefit also comes an accountability for the students to not only be on task, but also to be following along with what is being taught.

vi. With the appropriate software, teachers will be able to project from their iPad screens to the Smartboards in the classrooms and demonstrate instructional capabilities, making it easier for the students to follow along and learn functions and applications.

vii. Capabilities iPads have that will be at our students’ fingertips as a tool to enhance classroom instruction:

a. Tutoring / Studying Applications are available for many subjects. There are over 6000 educational apps available and many of them are free.

b. Video and audio capabilities to enhance the learning experience

c. Scientific Calculator capabilities

d. Research capabilities at their fingertips.

e. Portable whiteboard for classroom assessment and tutoring

f. A reader: books and novels (many are free), textbooks

g. A Bible - Not just for Bible classes, but to enhance Biblical integration and facilitate spontaneous, teachable moments. Students will not need to bring a Bible to class because their Bible will be on their iPad and they can highlight and take notes in the margin as well as use a concordance, topical index, and a Bible dictionary.

h. A musical instrument (piano)

i. Access to current events (newspapers, periodicals) and sites like NASA

j. Reference materials at your fingertips: Periodic table, weights and measures, and unit converters for classes like science.

k. Language Lab capabilities (speak, spell, listen, translate, practice, games)

l. PowerPoint presentations can be made in the classroom with teacher interaction, assistance, and review of the product.

m. Calendar features are available that can include features currently in a school planner

iii. Helpful aspects of iPads that make them a good choice for our students:

- i. Power on/off - no wasting time booting up
- ii. Portable - easy to move from classroom to classroom and then to home
- iii. Balance of access and creativity
- iv. Battery life is very good. Likely charging will only be needed every 2-3 days.

II. Roll-Out Details and Timeline Questions

A. Will every student have their own iPad?

It is our plan to have a 1:1 Implementation meaning that each student has their own iPad that they use. This is not an iPad lab like a computer lab, but an iPad in each student's hands.

B. What grade levels will roll this out first? When will they be in our hands?

We anticipate that Middle School and High School students will be the first ones to begin with iPads, but it is our hope to eventually have iPads in the hands of all K-12 students. While we are still working out the details involved, it is our hope to roll out iPads at VCS within the next school year.

C. Will there be training for families / students on the iPads?

We definitely want parents to have a level of familiarity with the iPads and plan to have some initial training for families, in the evenings, either just prior to the beginning of the next school year, or soon after school begins. One of the best ways to learn about how an iPad works is to experiment with one in your home. It is our plan to initially issue iPads to the parents and have them give them to the students.

D. May parents order extra iPads through the school?

Yes. A parent may order extras if they desire, for their family.

E. Will the students take the iPads home or will they remain in the classroom?

We anticipate that the older students (6th – 12th grade) will take their iPads home with them daily, in their protective cases. In some cases, they will download course information directly from our computer server, through the VCS Wi-Fi, prior to going home, and be able to use that from home.

For the elementary age students, we project that there will be a period of time where they will use their iPads only in the classroom, at first, as they gain familiarity and experience with them.

F. Will the students still have textbooks in the classroom?

Yes! While there is an initial trend among curriculum companies, to make an ebook version of their textbooks, the Interactive textbooks are the new wave of the future, and they are simply not available yet for most of our courses. We anticipate than 2-3 years from now that they will be available for most publishers that we use. We will continue to use traditional textbooks in the classroom.

III. The Financial Questions:

A. How much will this cost?

- i. There are 2 financial aspects of this project. There is the lease to own part for the iPad /case itself and there is also a technology overhead portion to cover the technology upgrades (like Wi-Fi for the campus) and additional technology requirements that will be needed to make this project work optimally. We are anticipating that the bundled price will be approximately \$25 - \$40 / month, 12 months of the year, a total of 36 months or 3 years.
- ii. We are anticipating having a lease to own program for 3 years for all students. At the end of the three years, the iPad would become the property of the student/family. Prior to the end of the three year program, the iPad is the property of VCS. This is similar to the elementary school's lease to own musical instrument program that begins during the second semester of 3rd grade. If the student continues to lease the instrument through the completion of 6th grade, the instrument is theirs to keep. Instrument rental varies in price, based on the instrument the student plays, but generally ranges from \$25 - \$45 / month.
- iii. What comes as a part of that bundle price? We are anticipating that the bundle price would include the Wi-Fi iPad, a protective case, AppleCare, a supplemental insurance that would protect against spills and other similar events, the technology fee, and technology support for the iPads to make their use optimal in our classrooms.
- iv. For the first time in many years, we are not anticipating a tuition increase, but instead to be able to remain at our current rates. This lack of rate increase will assist our families in the affordability of an iPad for their children.

B. What if I already have an iPad that I want my student to use?

If you choose to provide your own iPad for your student to use, it would still be required to pay the technology fee that is a part of the bundled price. If your iPad has 3G capabilities, you would be asked to support our school policy of no access to 3G during school hours. Families providing their own iPads would be required to provide their own insurance for their iPad.

C. Will all students, in the grades this is implemented in, be required to have an iPad?

Yes! We are going to use them, interactively, with the students in all classrooms. We have not yet decided which grades will roll out first, but students in those grades will all be using iPads.

D. Will I need Internet access in my home for my son/daughter to use their iPad at home?

Yes! Some things can be downloaded and stored on the iPad prior to leaving school. Some things will require Internet access from home. The most convenient way would be to have Internet in your home and allow the iPad to connect to your provider via Wi-Fi. There is a free Wi-Fi finder application on the iPad that will help you to locate a nearby Wi-Fi network. Libraries, some fast food restaurants and places like Starbucks often have free Wi-Fi.

E. Will I need to have an iTunes account for my son/daughter?

While many young people have a family or personal iTunes account, items pertaining to their subject-area needs, would go through the school's iTunes account and be loaded onto the iPad by the school. If the family wanted to download appropriate, additional items to their iPad, they would need their own iTunes account. Parent monitoring and supervision of what a student may be able to download from home will be very important.

III. The Security Questions:

How will the school prevent the students from downloading inappropriate material onto their iPads?

The iPads, while they are at school, will utilize the school's Wi-Fi service. Our VCS firewall will provide a shield, as it currently does for all our computers, for the iPads as well, so inappropriate material should not be able to be downloaded. Parents will be asked to monitor what students are downloading at home and ensure it is appropriate. VCS' Internet Safety Use Agreement will also be updated to reflect a great deal of information that will pertain to use of the Internet and what is appropriate on an iPad that is owned by the school or used at school.

We are also looking into the capabilities and feasibilities of other ways to keep our students safer such as Filtering for iPads. One option is a Safe Browser (used to be called Moby SIP) which is good 3rd party app. There are other possibilities to consider such as blocking Safari (Mac's internet browsing application like Internet Explorer) using parental controls so that kids would use Safe Browser instead, Lightspeed that has a web browser that also can serve as a web filter, and Apple's app that allows you to lock which those applications you don't want to allow to launch.

IV. The Responsibility / Damage/ Loss Questions:

A. How will you prevent the students from playing games or getting to areas of the Internet that are inappropriate?

With the appropriate software, the teacher can see what each student is doing on their iPad from their own iPad once they are logged into the classroom. The accountability there is very helpful. In addition, the appropriate classroom protocol for using iPads will have to be taught, monitored, and enforced by every teacher in every class. Our teachers will need to walk around and be visible so as to be aware of what each student is doing in the classroom.

Our VCS firewall provides a level of security for all VCS computers that will be extended to the iPads that will be on our Wi-Fi network. This is one reason for choosing the Wi-Fi iPads instead of the 3G iPads. We desire to protect each of our students and keep them safe at school.

B. What if my child spills lunch on their iPad, drops it, it stops working, or becomes missing?

We will be including a protective case with each iPad to help protect it from damage if it is dropped while the case is properly fastened around it. We will definitely want to teach and model security for the iPads while at school and during transportation of them before and after school.

The insurance policy on each VCS laptop that costs approximately \$45/ year (and a part of the bundle price) will cover accidental spills.

AppleCare, the Apple Inc. policy, will cover situations where there is equipment failure. Apple Care has provisions in its insurance that may assist, in the event of a loss, but only if a police report is filed.

There is a security system we are looking into that can be installed that registers each iPad with a special number. This allows each iPad to be traceable by the Police Department in the event of theft/ loss, once the iPad has been turned on and the Internet has been accessed.

V. The Technology Questions:

A. Which machine will the school be purchasing for this program?

There are many iPad options available. Memory ranges from 16, 34, to 64 Gigabytes. The 16gb iPad provides sufficient memory for educational needs.

For Internet access, there are both WiFi and 3G options available. For internet safety, we will purchase the Wi-Fi iPads. This will allow our current safety filters and firewalls to be in place, just as they are on our desktop computers that are available to the students.

B. Will these machines be obsolete in 3-5 years?

While there is always something new coming out on the market, the life expectancy for a computer is typically several years, because the device itself is not what needs to be updated, but rather the software. There will always be new features to hardware, but the iPads will still be effective in the classroom for many consecutive years, due to the ability to update software and the longevity of the hardware/device itself.

How can I learn more?

We are planning to hold a follow-up meeting on March 3, 2011 to give you an update on our progress and provide a forum for questions and answers. We cordially invite you to attend.

Please check your weekly e-bulletins and the daily devotional email for information about the date and time of this meeting.

