



Mobile Technology Program 2008-2009 School Year Frequently Asked Questions

All Upper School Students participate in the Academy's Mobile Technology Program. This document was created to answer the most common questions new Upper School parents and students have about our Mobile Technology Program and our Tablet PC Bundle.

Why Mobile Technology?

The decision to adopt a mobile technology program was based on many factors. Three beliefs were influential however. (1) Technology should not be a tool that students have access to merely once a week in a special room. (2) Increased access to technology is important for our students in terms of college preparation and beyond. (3) Successful technology integration will only occur by providing students and teachers *personal* access to technology.

How did the Mobile Technology Program originate at the Academy?

In the fall of 2001 a committee was formed to investigate the educational use of laptops in schools and develop recommendations for the implementation of a mobile technology program at the Academy. Educators from a range of grade levels and content areas served on the Laptop Investigation Committee. Members visited schools with successful laptop programs, including sister schools in and out of state. In addition, numerous case studies and research articles were examined. Based on the work of the committee, a vision to provide students with wireless, networked technologies to expand and deepen their educational experience was developed.

What is the impact on teaching and learning?

The Mobile Technology Program

- expands learning opportunities
- provides access to technology whenever and wherever students need it
- increases student access to worldwide resources
- facilitates collaborative projects and project-based learning
- aids Upper School Students in meeting National Educational Technology Standards
- provides opportunities to address social, ethical, and human issues related to technology use
- improves writing, organization, analysis, and presentation skills of students
- increases the technology confidence and competency of users
- provides individualized learning and evaluation opportunities
- affords critical motivation for many students

Why the change to Tablet PCs?

During the 2005-2006 school year, an investigative committee was formed to examine the state of Tablet PCs. After an investigation analogous to the laptop investigation, it was determined that Tablet PCs could indeed further enhance and enrich the educational programs at the Academy. As our selected Tablet PC can also be used as a laptop, in addition to all the benefits that a laptop provides, it has the added benefit of giving individuals the flexibility to write on the screen with a stylus or type on the keyboard. In curricular areas where equations, formulas, and drawings are essential, the Tablet PC is a better choice over a laptop. Furthermore, handwriting is still important in our curriculum. For instance, standardized testing requires handwriting. Another important factor was that tablets avoid the screen barrier between the user and others.

What are the specifications of the Academy's Table PC Bundle?

The bundle includes hardware, software use, and support services designed to optimize students' abilities to effectively participate in the Upper School's educational program. *See the next three questions for more details.*

What are the hardware specifications for this computer?

Computers will not be purchased until July 1. Currently, the Academy plans to purchase the HP 2710p Tablet PC with the following specifications:

- Intel Core2 Duo Ultra Low Voltage Processor
- 2.0 GB of RAM
- 80 GB Hard Drive
- 12.1 Inch WXGA Display
- 56K Modem
- 10/100/1000 Network Card
- Intel (802.11a/b/g) Wireless Card
- A/C Adapter
- Biometric Fingerprint Sensor
- Carrying Bag
- Expansion Base with DVD/CD Burner
- Express Card Slot
- Primary Battery
- SD Card Slot
- Secondary "Slice" Battery
- Stylus with Tether, PointStick, and Optical Mouse
- Two USB 2.0 Connectors and One 1394a (Firewire) Connector

What software is installed and configured on the computer?

The software on the Tablet PC includes but is not limited to:

- Microsoft Windows XP Tablet PC Edition (Operating System)
- Adobe Photoshop Elements
- Antiviral Software
- Classroom Presenter
- Geometer's Sketchpad
- Inspiration Software
- Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft OneNote, Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Publisher, and Microsoft FrontPage
- Novell Client
- Novell GroupWise
- Vernier LabPro
- Windows Journal
- Windows Movie Maker

Do families own the software installed on the tablets?

Families own the Microsoft Windows Operating System installed on the tablets. Other software is licensed to the school for students' use. Families pay a Software Use Fee as part of the tablet bundle to *use* the installed software. As such, a student must remove the other licensed software upon any event which causes her to no longer be a student at the Academy. This may seem disadvantageous at first glance; however, the Software Use Fee has the following advantages:

- The cost of purchasing individual software licenses for each student would significantly increase the cost of the tablet bundle by hundreds of dollars. Furthermore, the software would most likely become dated within a couple of years, requiring the repurchasing of the same software titles at an additional cost.
- The Software Use Fee allows for updating software on tablets at no additional cost to families during their time at the Academy. Generally, this occurs at two-year intervals.
- Once students proceed to college, they will be eligible for software purchases at college discounts. Also, a student's program of study might require different software than included in the Academy's tablet bundle.

(Note: Some software has little value off campus and students will want to uninstall it.)

What services are provided with this computer?

- HP's parts and labor warranty for four years*
- HP's Accidental Damage Protection Plan for four years with one major incident per year
- Access to the Academy's loaner tablets in the event the tablet needs repair
- Access to the Academy's ITHelpDesk for tablet issues and questions

**HP only warranties batteries and stylus pens for one year. Families should anticipate purchasing a replacement battery during the second or third year of the program.*

What does HP's Accidental Damage Protection Plan include?

Accidental Damage Protection includes non-intentional, accidental damage like drops, spills and breaks - all accidental damage except fire damage, theft, loss and intentional damage. More information on the Accidental Damage Protection Plan can be found on HP's web site (www.hp.com).

What happens if the tablet does not work or is accidentally damaged?

The Academy's ITHelpDesk (located in the Media Center) will coordinate hardware repairs and provide a loaner tablet if needed. We expect most repairs to fall under HP's four year warranty or Accidental Damage Protection Plan.

What is the expected lifecycle of the machine?

Currently, tablets have lifecycles of three to four years. Software requirements determine the need to purchase new machines. Such software requirements are difficult to predict. However, the Academy's Tablet Bundle is designed with four years of service.

Why shouldn't I buy my own tablet outside of the Academy?

We sometimes receive inquiries from parents about providing their child with a nonstandard computer bought outside of the Academy's Tablet Bundle. Usually this is because of a perceived lower cost of doing so. The perceived lower cost is false based on the lack of an "apples-to-apples" comparison. We strongly discourage you from purchasing a nonstandard tablet outside of the Academy. There are a number of reasons for this.

The Academy tablets are bundled with software needed for Upper School coursework. This software was purchased through volume, educational licensing. The cost of software purchased as part of the Academy's tablets bundle is significantly cheaper than what one might find at local stores and online. **This software cannot be placed on non-Academy issued computers.**

Networking and software configuration is a lengthy process, which requires a moderate level of expertise. Academy tablets have been configured to operate effectively on the Academy's network giving students wireless access to the Academy's filtered Internet connection, printers, email accounts, and servers. In addition, software applications have been installed and configured on the machines. This software has been imaged on the machines which allows for the quick reloading of software in case of problems. **Only students with Academy hardware are able to utilize this service.**

It is also important to note that no technology is perfect. Hardware and software issues can render a machine unusable. The Academy has structured its tablet program to maximize convenience for parents, students, and faculty and to minimize downtime. Loaner tablets are available for when tablets need repair. Furthermore, most repairs are done on site. **Students**

with hardware purchased outside of the Academy are not able to utilize this repair service or tablets from the loaner pool.

I already have a laptop. Can I use it instead of purchasing the Academy Tablet Bundle?

We strongly discourage the use of computers other than the HP tablet selected by the Academy. In terms of using a laptop, our ninth grade students will be using software especially designed for the Tablet PC. Moreover, even if students had a *similar* model tablet, much as having different editions of the same textbook would waste valuable instructional time in the classroom, the same is true with different model tablets. Lastly, the Academy can only provide repairs and technical support for hardware purchased through the Mobile Technology Program.

Do I need Internet access at home?

At this time, Internet and email access at home is not a requirement. Certainly, there are many advantages to having Internet access at home. The tablets have a built-in modem for dial-up connections, an Ethernet port for DSL and cable modems, and a built-in wireless card for home wireless networks.

Can personal software be loaded onto the tablet?

Students may install any personal software which they have obtained legally and in accordance with our Acceptable Use Policy. There are some software applications that are inappropriate for school, however. These applications can be installed for home use but should not be used at school. *See the next question for details.*

Which programs are inappropriate in school?

Some popular applications are inappropriate in a school setting for several reasons. They may affect the performance of the tablet, they may degrade the Academy's wireless network, and/or they may promote in-class distractions or cheating. Chat programs, such as AIM and MSN Messenger and peer-to-peer software, such as Kazaa and LimeWire, are prohibited due to the reasons stated. Furthermore, online gaming should not be engaged in during the school day.

What happens if the tablet is stolen?

Neither HP's warranty nor Accidental Damage Protection Plan includes theft. However, certain homeowners' policies may cover theft. Please check with your insurance agent for details.

Could third-party insurance be purchased?

Yes. Safeware (<http://www.safeware.com/>) offers stand-alone tablet insurance policies, which cover theft, fire, power surges, lightning, spilled liquids in the keyboard, accidental drops, and natural disasters like earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods. Their Internet site lets you easily get a quote, and you can request the amount of coverage you need to protect your investment.

What training have Upper School Teachers had to prepare for students receiving tablets?

All Upper School faculty members are part of the Mobile Technology Program at the Academy. Started in the fall of 2002, educators voluntarily committed themselves to 60 hours of professional development to increase their technology integration and productivity skills. The goals of the program are based on National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers. As new faculty members join the training effort, past members continue to focus on technology as a professional development objective. With introduction of tablets into our community, educators are committing to additional hours of professional development to maximize the benefits of these tools for learning in the classroom.

Are students expected to bring their tablets to school every day?

Yes!

Will tablets be used in each class every day?

The Mobile Technology Program does not have the goal of having students use their tablets every minute of the day. Use of tablets will depend on the subject area and the appropriateness of technology for the lesson being taught.

Are students able to print from their tablets?

Yes. Tablets are configured to print to laser printers within the Academy. However, as the Academy has been designated as a “green” school, students are encouraged to make wise choices when printing to avoid wasting our natural resources and money. In addition, students are encouraged to print their assignments at home before coming to school to avoid printing back-ups and last minute stress.

How will students keep their tablets charged during the school day?

Students need to fully charge both of their batteries each school night. Each battery lasts between three and four hours. Electrical outlets are available in all classrooms, the Student Center, and the Media Center.

Where will students keep their tablets when they are not being used?

Students will keep their tablets in their locked lockers when not in use.

Will students backup their personal files on the tablets?

Students are encouraged to back up files onto recordable compact discs and/or the Academy's server regularly. Each student has her own network folder where files can be stored as well as access to burners to create back-up CDs and DVDs with her tablet. USB thumb drives are another option for the backing up of files as are external hard drives. As students commonly have many large media files on their computers, external hard drives might be the best choice for families.

Will the Academy ever perform any maintenance on the tablets?

Yes. Each summer the Academy's Technology Department collects the tablets for maintenance. Realizing that the tablet is an important aspect of each student's daily routine, this time period is kept as short as possible.

Do any other Sacred Heart schools have mobile technology programs?

At least fourteen other U.S. Sacred Heart schools have mobile technology programs with at least six utilizing tablets. Of particular help in setting up the Academy's program were Duchesne Academy in Texas, The Rosary in Louisiana, Villa Duchesne/Oak Hill in Missouri, Duchesne Academy in Nebraska, and Forest Ridge in Washington.

Where can I get more information?

For...	Contact	Email
Financial Questions	Judith Milosic, <i>Director of Finance</i>	jmilosic@ashmi.org
Curricular Questions	Judith Hehs, <i>Upper School Director</i>	jhehs@ashmi.org
Technical Questions	Dino Vandenheede, <i>Academic Technology Director</i>	dvan@ashmi.org