

1:1 IPAD PROGRAM

SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL



Please direct any questions or concerns regarding the Saint Thomas Academy iPad Program to:

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

College preparatory academics have been, and always will be, the emphasis of a Saint Thomas Academy education. The 1:1 iPad Program enhances the successful academic program with relevant digital tools. Today's students must be prepared with the technology literacy skills necessary to be successful in a digital world. Technology in the hands of every student enhances his mastery of 21st century critical thinking and problem solving skills, necessary for effective communication and collaboration in a global community.

There are multiple reasons for Saint Thomas Academy to provide middle school students with devices. By providing students with access to digital tools and resources, there is potential for students to authentically collaborate and communicate with each other as well as demonstrate critical and innovative thinking, problem solving, and creativity within the learning context. Providing each student in a grade with a device allows for consistency. All teachers know what each student has and can include authentic technology in instruction as a result of students having access to digital tools and resources. This consistency also allows for efficiency in training. The Media Technology Department can focus teacher training on a few devices, software, applications and uses to offer deeper application that supports and enhances the already strong academics at the Academy.

PARENTS HAVE A KEY ROLE IN REINFORCING THE ACADEMIC ROLE OF THE IPAD

Make a Commitment to use Technology Safely & Appropriately

Regularly share your expectations with your child about accessing only appropriate sites and content, as well as being a good person online (even when parents aren't watching). It is important to maintain an open dialogue about internet use. Discuss your expectation for appropriate use and behavior.

Filter Access

All Saint Thomas Academy student iPads are equipped with an internet safety browser, MobiCip, and are fully managed through a Casper/JAMF mobile device management system. All internet browsers other than Mobicip have been removed from the device and students may only access apps provided via the Saint Thomas Academy custom Self Service Portal.

Monitor & Limit Screen Time

Experts suggest having teens surf the internet in a central place at home, such as the kitchen or family room, rather than away from adult supervision or behind a closed door. Know what your child is doing with technology and how his or her time is being spent. Technology can be a great tool and resource, but also has potential to be a big distractor. Help your child learn to focus on completing tasks or assignments first before spending time on games, shopping and social media. Teaching today's children how to manage multiple sources of information and potential distractions is a critical life skill, one best learned before heading off to college or the workplace.

Lost or Damaged iPads

If a student iPad is not working or is lost, it must be immediately reported to the Media Technology Department for repair.

WHY IS A DIGITAL FOOTPRINT SO IMPORTANT?

"Digital life is both public and permanent. Everything our teens do online creates digital footprints that migrate and persist. Something that happens on the spur of the moment can resurface years later. And if teens are not careful, their reputations can be harmed. Your teen may think he just sent something to a friend, but that friend can send it to a friend's friend, who can send it to their friends' friends, and so on. That's how secrets become headlines, and how false information spreads fast and furiously. The stakes only increase when we remember that all of this takes place in front of a huge, invisible audience. Teens' deepest secrets can be shared with thousands of people they never even met."

Common Sense Media exists because our nation's children spend more time with media and digital activities than they do with their families or in school, which profoundly impacts their social, emotional, and physical development. As a not-partisan, not-for-profit organization, Common Sense Media provides trustworthy information and tools, as well as an independent forum, so that families can have a choice and a voice about the media they consume.

Parents and students are invited to explore more resources from Common Sense Media at: www.commonsensemedia.com.

CYBER SAFETY BOOT CAMP

Providing students with devices with which they can access the internet creates opportunities for life-impacting choices. STA students participated in a Cyber Safety Boot Camp that was composed of instruction on three elements:

- Digital footprint
- Cyberbullying
- Online choices

Cyber safety is an important parent-child discussion to revisit frequently. Experts warn that children are most vulnerable to online dangers while in their own home.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

As a parent, what are the home expectations for my child using the iPad?

Students are expected to use their iPad for academic purposes both in and out of school. Students may use their iPad for completing homework, conducting research, collaborating on projects, completing tests or quizzes, along with other academic uses. At any point, you are welcome to view your son's iPad and his materials. iPads should be kept in a common location in the home for overnight charging and storage.

Parents are encouraged to be proactive and treat the iPad as any digital device in your home. Feel free to set limits and provide boundaries such as using the iPad in common spaces under supervision and not having the iPad in your son's room, a shutoff time at night, and consistency with already existing family rules. You understand your son and may need to address limits, boundaries, and expectations for iPad use in your own home. Please keep in mind, while Schoology looks like Facebook, Saint Thomas Academy is not requiring, advocating for, or encouraging the use of Facebook or other social networking sites. If you are concerned with the impact of the iPad on your son's academics or on your family, please feel free to contact us for support and assistance.

Can my son add his own apps?

Saint Thomas Academy will manage the iPads. The Academy's faculty will pre-select and install software and apps on the iPads. Occasionally, the iPads will have updates, new apps, and software pushed to the devices wirelessly. Students will not have the ability to add their own apps to the iPad. The iPads are school property, tampering and changing the settings will be in violation of the Saint Thomas Academy Acceptable Use Policy and Student Handbook.

How should my son care for the iPad?

The iPad is an electronic device; handle it with care. Never throw a book bag that contains an iPad. Never place an iPad in a bag that has food, liquids, heavy, or sharp objects. While the iPad is scratch resistant, it is not scratch proof. Avoid using any sharp object(s) on the iPad. The iPad screen is glass and is vulnerable to cracking. Never place heavy objects on top of the iPad and never intentionally drop the iPad. Careful placement in backpacks is important.

What is the cost to families for the iPad program?

There is no cost to families for the iPad Program during the 2017-2018 school year. Only if the iPad is damaged due to recklessness or lost is there any cost associated with the program. Saint Thomas Academy will handle all necessary repairs and replacement.

LEARN MORE



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Learn more about Saint Thomas Academy and our Middle School 1:1 iPad Program by visiting www.cadets.com/academics/media-technology.

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