Upper School
Mobile Technology Program
Frequently Asked Questions

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

Why Mobile Technology?

The decision to implement 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 of Sacred Heart educators was formed to investigate the educational uses of laptops in schools. 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 international standards in technology education
- 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 Convertible Laptops/Tablets with Styluses?

A decade ago, an investigative committee was formed to examine the state of convertible laptops/tablets. After a study analogous to the laptop investigation, it was determined that convertible computers with styluses could further enhance and enrich the Upper School's educational program. In addition to all the benefits a laptop provides, a convertible computer with stylus has the added benefit of giving individuals the flexibility to write on the screen or type on the keyboard. In curricular areas where equations, formulas, and drawings are essential, a stylus is a better choice over a keyboard. Furthermore, handwriting is still important in our curriculum. For instance, certain standardized tests require handwriting. From a research standpoint, several studies suggest the value of handwriting over typing when taking class notes.

Why not iPads?

iPads cannot run all the needed applications required for Upper School coursework.

What are the specifications of the Academy's Laptop/Tablet 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 five questions for more details.*

What are the hardware specifications for this computer?

The convertible laptop/tablet for the 2019-2020 school year is the **Lenovo ThinkPad L390 Yoga with Stylus**. It was chosen as the best machine for the Upper School academic program. Its specifications are:

- 13.3 Inch Display
- 256 GB Solid State Drive
- 8 GB of RAM
- Two A/C Adapters / Power Cords
- AC Wireless
- Bluetooth
- Carrying Bag (if not included in a previous bundle purchase)
- Dual Microphones
- HDMI Port
- Integrated Fingerprint Reader
- Intel Core i5 Processor
- Backlit Keyboard
- Micro SD Card Slot
- Stylus, Touchpad, TrackPoint and Touch Screen
- Two USB 3.1 Ports
- Two USB 3.1 Type-C Ports
- Webcam

What software is installed and configured on the computer?

Software for the 2019-20 school year includes but is not limited to:
- Microsoft Windows 10 Pro Education (Operating System)
- Adobe Creative Cloud – Photoshop CC, Acrobat CC, etc.
- Antiviral Software
- Audacity
- Classroom Presenter
- Geometer's Sketchpad
- Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox and Microsoft Edge browsers
- Inspiration Software
- Microsoft Sway
- Microsoft Whiteboard
- Microsoft Word, Excel, OneNote, PowerPoint and Publisher (Office 365)
- Movie Maker
- Picasa
- Vernier LabPro
- VLC Media Player

Do families own the software installed on the computers?

Families own the original Microsoft Windows Operating System installed on the computers. Other software such as Microsoft Office and Adobe Creative Cloud is licensed to the school for students' use. Families pay a Software Use Fee to *use* this software. As such, a student loses rights to school 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 computer 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 includes the updating of software on computers.
- Once students proceed to college, they will be eligible for software purchases at college discounts.

*What services are provided with this computer? *

- Parts and labor warranty for four years
- Accidental Damage Protection for four years
- Access to the Academy's loaner computers in the event the computer needs repair
- Support from the Academy's IT HelpDesk for computer issues and questions

Exceptions: a) Battery warranties are for one year unless stated otherwise on the order form.
b) Grade 10 machines have warranties and Accidental Damage Protection for three years.

What does Accidental Damage Protection include?

Accidental Damage Protection includes non-intentional, accidental damage like drops, spills and breaks. Not covered is cosmetic damage, theft, fire damage and equipment loss. More information on Accidental Damage Protection can be found on the selected vendor's web site.

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

The student simply brings the computer to the IT HelpDesk (located in the Media Center). The IT HelpDesk will coordinate hardware repairs and provide a loaner computer if needed.

Why can't I buy my own computer outside of the Academy?

We sometimes receive inquiries from parents about providing their child with a nonstandard computer bought outside of the Academy's Laptop/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.

The Academy computers 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 Bundle is significantly lower than what one might find at local stores and online. **This software bundle <u>cannot</u> be placed on non-Academy issued computers.**

Networking and software configuration are processes which require a moderate level of expertise. Academy computers have been configured to operate effectively on the Academy's network giving students wireless access to the Academy's filtered Internet connection, printers, and servers. In addition, software applications have been installed and configured on the machines. This software has been imaged on the computers which allows for the quick reloading of software in case of problems. **Only students with Academy issued hardware can 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 the Mobile Technology Program to maximize convenience for parents, students, and faculty and to minimize downtime. Loaner computers are available for when machines need repair. **Students with hardware purchased outside of the Academy would not be able to utilize this repair service or computers from the loaner pool.**

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

No. Our students use software specifically designed for stylus input. Moreover, even if a family had a *similar* model machine, much as having different editions of the same textbook would waste valuable instructional time in the classroom, the same is true with different model computers. 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?

Internet access at home is not a requirement. Certainly, there are many advantages to having Internet access at home.

Can personal software be loaded onto the computer?

Students may install any personal software which they have obtained legally and in accordance with our Appropriate 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 computer, they may slow the Academy's wireless network for others, and/or they may promote in-class distractions or cheating. Instant messaging, peer-to-peer software and file-sharing software are prohibited due to the reasons stated. Furthermore, online gaming should not be engaged in during the school day.

What happens if the computer is stolen?

Our computer warranties and Accidental Damage Protection plans do <u>not</u> include theft. However, certain homeowners' policies may cover theft. Please check with your insurance agent.

Can third-party insurance be purchased?

Yes. Safeware (safeware.com) offers stand-alone computer insurance policies, which cover theft, fire, power surges, lightning, and natural disasters. Their website lets you easily get a quote.

What training have Upper School educators had to utilize computers with students?

All Upper School faculty members are part of the Mobile Technology Program. Faculty members initially commit themselves to 48-60 hours of professional development to increase their technology integration and productivity skills. The goals of the program are based on the International Society for Technology in Education Standards for Teachers. As time passes, educators commit to additional hours of professional development to maximize the benefits of these tools for learning in the classroom.

Are students able to print from their computers?

Yes. Computers are preconfigured to print to printers within the Academy. In addition, computers can be configured to print to home printers; students are encouraged to print assignments at home before coming to school to avoid lines at printers and last-minute stress. 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.

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

Yes!

Will computers be used in each class every day?

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

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

Students need to fully charge their computers each school night. In addition, electrical outlets are available in all classrooms, the Student Lounge and the Media Center.

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

Students are to keep their computers in their <u>locked</u> lockers when not in use.

How will students backup their personal files on the computers?

Students are encouraged to regularly backup files. Each student has gigabytes of cloud storage though Google Drive and Microsoft OneDrive. For files stored locally and not mirrored in the cloud, USB thumb drives, micro SD cards and external hard drives are good options for backing up.

Will the Academy perform any maintenance on the computers?

Yes. Each summer the Academy's Technology Department collects the computers for maintenance. Realizing that the computer is an important aspect of each student's daily routine, this period is kept as short as possible, typically a week to two weeks.

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 four utilizing convertible laptops/tablets. Of help in setting up the Academy's program were Duchesne Academy in Texas, The Rosary in Louisiana and Forest Ridge in Washington.

Where can I get more information?

For…	Contact	Email
Financial Questions	Elizabeth Pietrangelo, *Chief Finance Officer*	epietrangelo@ashmi.org
Curricular Questions	Judith Hehs, *Upper School Director*	jhehs@ashmi.org
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