



KH and MSG Grades 7 – 8 Mobile Learning Program Frequently Asked Questions

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All middle school students participate in the Academy’s Mobile Learning Program. This document was created to answer the most common questions parents and students have about the program for Grades 7 and 8.

How did the Mobile Learning Program originate at the Academy?

The Mobile Learning Program (or 1 to 1 program) began with Upper School Students over a decade ago, after a committee of faculty members investigated school laptop programs. All Academy faculty members grew their technology integration skills when this program began and this emphasis on professional development has continued to the present day. The result of this commitment by our faculty is an increased use of and necessity for powerful, wireless, Internet-enabled tools for learning.

The charge to explore the possibilities for a 1 to 1 program in the MSG and KH came from a recent accreditation analysis and requests from community members. A committee comprised of KH and MSG educators as well as administrative team members was created during the fall of 2012 and examined the Upper School’s existing 1 to 1 program, educational research and KH and MSG’s current use of educational technologies. Based on the work of the committee, a vision to provide middle school students with personally assigned computing devices to expand and deepen their educational experience was developed.

Why mobile technology?

The decision to implement a mobile technology program was based on many factors. Three views were influential, however. (1) Past access to technology for our KH and MSG students was not adequate. (2) It was challenging to deliver a 21st century curriculum without providing students 1 to 1 access to technology. (3) In terms of technology skills, the faculty and administration wanted to better prepare our MSG students moving into the US program and our KH boys matriculating into area high schools.

What is the impact on teaching and learning?

Our Mobile Learning Program

- expands learning opportunities
- provides access to technology whenever and wherever students need it
- facilitates collaborative projects and project-based learning
- aids students in meeting international educational technology standards
- presents opportunities to address social, ethical and human issues related to technology use

- improves student writing, organization, analysis and presentation skills
- increases the technology confidence and competency of users
- provides individualized learning and evaluation opportunities
- affords critical motivation for many students
- allows for the delivery of innovative curriculum that connects the classroom to worldwide resources
- prepares students to be problem-solvers, innovators and effective collaborators through student-centered and project-based learning
- supports redirection and adjustment of instruction based on formal and informal assessments
- helps develop self-directed students who create, explore and master topics
- augments students' virtual education opportunities
- deepens the incorporation of the Academy's 6 C's of 21st century learning

Why the convertible laptop / tablet with stylus?

Our selected convertible laptop / tablet has the benefit of giving students 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, 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 show the value of handwriting over typing when taking class notes.

What are the specifications of the Academy's Convertible Laptop / Tablet Bundle?

The bundle includes hardware, software use and support services designed to optimize students' abilities to effectively participate in the KH and MSG educational programs. *Read the following questions for more details.*

What are the hardware specifications for this computer?

The **Lenovo Thinkpad L390 Yoga with Stylus** was chosen as the best machine for our two middle school academic programs. Its specifications are:

- 13.3 Inch Display
- 256 GB Solid State Drive
- 8 GB of RAM
- A/C Adapter / Power Cord
- AC Wireless
- Bluetooth
- Carrying Bag
- 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 will be installed and configured on the computers?

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

Will families own the software installed on the computers?

Families own the operating system that comes with the computer. Some software 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.

What services will be provided with this computer?

The computer will have a warranty and accidental damage protection, and the student will have access to the Academy’s loaner computers in the event his/her computer needs repair and support from the Academy’s ITHelpDesk for computer issues and questions.

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.

What happens if the computer stops working or is accidentally damaged?

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

When do families need to purchase the computer bundle?

Orders will need to be placed by the end of June.

When will students receive their computers?

Machines will be introduced to students during an orientation once the school year starts in September. Parents are welcomed to this orientation as well.

What training will middle school students receive on the use and care of the machines?

In addition to an initial training session on the “care and feeding” of the machines, additional material will be integrated into the curriculum.

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

The Academy's convertible laptops/tablets are bundled with software needed for coursework. This software was purchased using volume, educational licensing. Software purchased as part of the Academy's bundle is significantly less expensive than what one might find at local stores and online.

This software cannot 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 its 1 to 1 program to maximize convenience for parents, students and faculty and to minimize downtime. Loaner computers are available when computers 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 my child use it instead of the Academy Laptop/Tablet Bundle?

No. Our students use software especially designed for stylus input. Moreover, even if a family had a *similar* model device, 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 Learning Program.

Will my child need Internet access at home?

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

Is Internet content filtered at school?

The school's Internet connection is filtered for content and is also monitored as to which sites are visited. Yet, we expect our students to be the best filters with the *Goals and Criteria* and our Appropriate Use Policy as guides.

Can personal software be loaded onto the computer?

Students may install software which they have obtained legally and in accordance with our Appropriate Use Policy as long as it does not adversely affect operating system files or other school installed software. 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 device, 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?

Neither the computer's warranty nor the accidental damage protection includes theft. However, certain homeowners' policies may cover a machine being stolen. Please check with your insurance agent for details. Laptopschools.com does offer theft insurance on computer purchases.

What training have KH and MSG teachers had to utilize the computers with students?

All middle school faculty members are part of the Mobile Learning Program in which they 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 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.

Will students be able to print from their computers?

Yes. Computers are configured to print to 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. In addition, students are encouraged to print assignments at home before coming to school to avoid lines at printers and last-minute stress.

Will students be expected to bring their devices to school every day?

Yes.

Will the computers be used in each class every day?

The Mobile Learning Program does not 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 and the Media Center.

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

Students are to keep their computers in school provided bags in their locked lockers when not in use.

How will students backup their personal files on the computers?

Each student has gigabytes of cloud storage through 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 will collect the computers for maintenance. Realizing that the computer is an important aspect of each student’s daily routine, this time period is kept as short as possible, typically a week to two weeks.

What happens to the computers after Grade 8?

Our girls will continue to use the machines for Grade 9 in the Upper School; at the end of Grade 9 families will purchase another computer bundle for Grades 10-12. Our boys will graduate with their computers and can use them for their high school work. Families can directly contact the vendor for any warranty issues / accidental damage that occurs after graduation or after leaving the Academy for any other reason.

Do any other Sacred Heart schools have mobile technology programs?

At least 14 other U.S. Sacred Heart schools have mobile technology programs with at least four utilizing convertible laptop/tablet computers with digital inking capability. Of particular 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
Curricular Questions	Angela Saylor, <i>Director of Middle Schools</i>	asaylor@ashmi.org
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