

Holy Innocents' Laptop Program

Frequently Asked Questions

How will our students benefit from using laptops in school?

Laptop computers empower learning in a way no other tool can match. With their laptops our students will be able to:

- Take an active role in their education.
- Enhance their organizational skills and actively accessing information, daily assignments and projects at home and at school.
- Sharpen their cognitive skills by analyzing data, synthesizing information and applying research.
- Develop confidence and competence in public speaking by making multimedia presentations for class.
- Learn the values of teamwork by collaborating with classmates and teachers on projects and communicating with peers throughout the world.
- Expand their worlds as they take virtual trips to other cities and countries and interact with people from around the globe.
- Gather and process data efficiently and effectively, using charts, graphs, spreadsheets and databases.

What if my child already has a laptop?

Each student must use the standardized, school-provided laptop. They are issued with a large number of software packages preinstalled. A uniform configuration will make learning much easier for the student and teacher alike, and will ensure that the laptop can be supported by the school's network and repair system.

What if my child's laptop needs repairs?

The majority of repairs will be handled on campus. HIES is an Apple Authorized Self-Servicing Facility, has trained Apple technicians that can order replacement parts not available to the public. All laptops will be covered under the Apple Care Warranty for the life cycle of the hardware. Most repairs will be completed within 48 hours. Computers that must be returned to Apple should be available within three business days. A pool of loaner computers will be available for students who are awaiting repairs. These loaners will be housed in each division for easy access.

In the case of a damaged or stolen laptop, the laptops will be covered by a special insurance policy. This policy will cover theft, accidental damage, power surge, fire, vandalism and natural disasters. There is a \$250 deductible required for an insurance claim that is the responsibility of the student.

What if my child forgets a laptop at home?

Students are expected to bring their laptops to school everyday, charged and ready to use. Forgetting a laptop would be dealt with in a manner similar to for forgetting homework or textbooks. A limited number of loaners will be available. However, the priority of the loaner pool is for laptops under repair and not for students who forget laptops.

Is my child protected from objectionable Internet sites?

The laptops are equipped with a local filter that will help protect students for objectionable site while on and off campus. With any type of filtering, there will be issues with wanted sites being blocked and unwanted site still getting through. The solution to this is to teach our students the ethical and responsible use of technology, rather than relying on software to handle these types of issues.

Will the Apple computers be compatible with computers at home?

All laptops will be loaded with Microsoft Office, which is fully compatible with the PC version of Office. The formats used on the Mac are generally universal, and compatibility problems are not expected with any software used on campus.

Will my child still need conventional textbooks?

Over time, the use of textbooks should decrease drastically. Many publishers are releasing their textbooks in digital form, and most materials are currently available on the Internet or CD. Also, the reduced reliance on textbooks will encourage teachers to create their own lesson plans to fit both their particular student population and their individual teaching styles. Initially, however, each teacher will need to determine what medium will be optimal for student learning.