



Headphone-Microphone Expectations, Grades K–8

Note: The word “headset” as used below refers to any device that works as both a headphone and a microphone.

Short Version:

All K–8 students are now required to purchase their own dedicated headset for use at home and at school.

Longer Version:

Many students benefit from using a headset with a microphone. Headsets help them focus on the voice of their teacher and classmates. It also provides a greater sense of connection to the group. A microphone that’s built into the headset generally improves the sound quality for the teacher and other students while helping to significantly reduce background noise from the home environment or other remote location.

With the return of students to campus, we’ve seen the importance of a personal headset. Given the current health concerns, we cannot loan headsets or manage shared class-based systems. Therefore, we are requiring all students to have their own dedicated headset that combines both headphone and microphone functions.

Grades K–4

Students should use over-the-ear headsets, like the suggested versions below, which are rated for young child use with limited volume output. We do not recommend in-ear mobile phone-style headsets for younger students. K–4 students tend to use headsets for more intensive listening where reducing background noise is more important. These should be wired with a standard headphone jack so students can continue to use their iPads while plugged into power.

Grades 5–8

Over-the-ear headsets are recommended. However, older students can likely use in-ear headsets like those that come with nearly every mobile phone.

Wired vs. wireless headsets

Wired headsets have the distinct advantage of not requiring batteries or charging. As long as the iPad has power, the headset will continue to function. Bluetooth wireless headsets have the obvious advantage of being cordless. In fact, some have an option of connecting a standard audio cord. We’ve found, however, that most of these optional wired connections disconnect the microphone. Therefore, please be sure this is not the case if you go with a Bluetooth over-the-ear option for older students.

There are dozens of options, many far more expensive than those listed below. However, we have tested these few and find them worthy of recommendation. All include direct Amazon links.

Mpow CH6S Kids Headphones with Microphone - \$18.95

Advantages:

- Most comfortable, especially for smaller children
- In-line microphone requires no placement
- Colorful and attractive
- Single cable design and foldable
- Noise gate control to eliminate loud sounds

Disadvantages:

- Adequate but not the best sound or mic quality
- Will not work with older children



Mpow 071 USB Headset - \$32.99

Advantages:

- Best sound and mic of the bunch
- Adjustable microphone that extends from headset
- Single cable design
- Dual options of USB or 3.5mm with hand-controller provides options for laptops
- Claims to have noise reduction technology

Disadvantages:

- Adjustable microphone might tempt touching and distraction
- Does not fold



Sony MDRZX110AP ZX Headset with Mic - \$25.94

Advantages:

- Better sound and microphone
- In-line microphone requires no placement
- Foldable design

Disadvantages:

- Dual cords doubles the chance of cable damage
- Least comfortable



[Anker Soundcore Life Q20 Noise Cancelling Headphones](#) - \$59.95

Advantages:

- Wireless over-ear Bluetooth
- Full-day battery life
- Noise cancelling technology

Disadvantages:

- Can not use non-powered cord for microphone
- No noise limit - NOT good for small children

