Mobile Learning Program
KH and MSG Grades 5 - 6

Frequently Asked Questions
Last Updated: June 2021

All middle school students participate in the Academy's Mobile Learning Program. This document was created to answer the most frequent questions parents and students have about the program.

How did the Mobile Learning Program originate at the Academy?

The charge to explore the possibilities for a 1 to 1 program in the MSG and KH came from an 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; they examined the Upper School's existing 1 to 1 program, educational research, and the use of educational technologies in KH and the MSG. 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

What type of device will students in Grades 5 and 6 be using?
Each students will use a convertible laptop/tablet with a stylus running Windows 10 Education Pro.

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. From a research standpoint, several studies show the value of handwriting over typing when taking class notes.

Which model of convertible laptop/tablet will students be using?
Students in Grades 5 and 6 will use the 11.6" Lenovo 300e (2nd Gen) Laptop with Active Pen.

Will I need to purchase this laptop for my child?
No. The Academy will issue the laptop to students much the same way that a textbook is issued to a student for a class.

What additional equipment will be issued with the laptops?
Laptops will be issued with a stylus, charger, and computer bag. All equipment must be returned at the end of the school year.

What services will be provided with this computer?
The computer will have a warranty, accidental damage protection, access to the Academy's loaner computers in the event the 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 repairs and provide a loaner computer if needed.

If the Accidental Damage Protection is used, what will be the charge?
Families will be charged $82 for an accidental damage claim that needs to be sent outside of the building.

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. Third party laptop theft insurance (e.g., Worthavegorup.com) may be an option. If lost or stolen, a family would need to pay for the replacement cost of the computer, accessories, and bag, just as with a lost or stolen textbook. The replacement cost of the bundle is $530.

We already have a laptop. Can my child use it instead of the Academy's laptop?
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 laptops. Lastly, the Academy can only provide repairs and technical support for devices that are part of our Mobile Learning Program.

When will students be issued their computers?
We are planning to issue devices near the start of the school year. Information will be emailed to parents as the distribution date nears.

Will students be able to take the laptops home?
Yes. Please note, however, the machine is issued for the student's use at home for schoolwork and not as a general device for the entire family.

What training will middle school students receive on the use and care of the machines?
Students take part in an orientation session that includes the "care and feeding" of the devices. This training will be done in-person or via video tutorials with additional material integrated into the curriculum.

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 Criteri*a and our middle school Appropriate Use Policy as helpful guides. There is also "light" filtering on these school-owned devices when off campus. In addition, most Internet providers allow parents to manage devices and set Internet time limits.

Will my child need Internet access at home?
Some degree of Internet access away from school is assumed for the completion of various homework assignments. Nevertheless, parents are encouraged to place reasonable time limits on Internet access and screen time.

Do laptops eliminate textbooks and novels?
No. Teachers use a blend of print and electronic media.

What training have KH and MSG teachers had to utilize the computers with students?
All middle school faculty members are part of the Mobile Technology Program in which they commit themselves to 40-60 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. Educators periodically recommit to additional professional development to maximize the benefits of these tools for learning in the classroom.

Can students install any software they would like to on these devices?
No. As school-owned devices, students will not be able to install additional software on these laptops. Our ITHelpdesk will help parents install software as part of an existing accommodation plan or for child safety reasons.

Will students able to print from their computers?
Yes. The laptops are configured to print to printers within the Academy. Nevertheless, students are encouraged to make wise choices when printing to avoid wasting our natural resources. In addition, the computers have been setup to allow families to install print drivers for home printers. Please note, it can be challenging to configure any computer to print to an older printer.

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 devices each school night. In addition, electrical outlets are available in all classrooms.

Where will students keep their computers when they are not being used at school?
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 though Google Drive and Microsoft OneDrive. For files stored locally and not mirrored in the cloud, a student could use a USB thumb or external hard drive.

Will students get to keep their school issued computers during the summer?
No. As with textbooks, the computers will be collected once classes conclude before summer break.

Where can I get more information?

For…	Contact	Email
Curricular Questions	Joyce Lee, MSG Director	jlee@ashmi.org
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