

Junior High Device Purchase Program

Years ago, pencils, paper, and textbooks were the primary tools students used to learn. Today, technology is an important part of preparing students for success in college, careers, and everyday life. Through our 1:1 student device program, every student has access to the digital tools needed to research, collaborate, create, and communicate. At the same time, we believe technology should enhance learning, not replace excellent teaching. We integrate technology with care and purpose, ensuring it serves as a transformative tool that supports deeper learning rather than becoming a distraction. By balancing purposeful technology use with meaningful discussion, hands-on experiences, and face-to-face collaboration, we help students develop the knowledge, skills, and digital citizenship needed to thrive in an increasingly connected world.

Please read through this Q&A to learn more about our program.

1 What is a 1:1 student device program and why has it been implemented in middle school?

The 1:1 student device program simply means that every student in grades 6th - 8th will have their own student device for use at school on a daily basis. FCS recognizes the need for students to have access to technology every day...in every class! It is no longer a nice supplement to instruction, it is an integral part of teaching and learning in today's world!

2 Why are junior high students using different devices? Why were Neo laptops selected for new 6th grade students?

Foothill has been a Mac/Apple environment, and our technology team has carefully considered the best devices to support student learning. Our 7th and 8th graders will continue using iPads because families have already made a significant investment in those devices, and we want to honor that commitment.

For incoming 6th grade students, we are transitioning to Neo laptops because they provide greater capabilities to support the academic needs of junior high students, including longer writing assignments, Google Workspace, multimedia projects, and other technology-based learning. The Neo laptop provides these expanded capabilities while maintaining a low cost just like our previous iPad bundle. These devices are also designed to support students much longer through high school, where they will need a 1:1 device.

3 How is the program being funded?

New 7th/8th grade students will be required to make a one-time purchase of an iPad package. Incoming 6th grade students will be required to make a one-time purchase of the Neo package (est. 2026-2027 school year) through the school. The cost will be added to your child's tuition plan and payable over the course of the entire school year. Remember, this is a one time purchase and not an annual charge.

4 What is the cost of the student device purchase?

The cost of the Student Device Program is \$890 for an iPad (7th-8th) or Neo Laptop (6th). This includes the student's assigned device, an extended warranty, mobile device management software, and the infrastructure needed to support the program. Parents must sign the Student Device Purchase and User Agreement upon enrollment.



5 Will the students get to keep their device?

Yes, think of it as a "lease to own" program. The students will use the same device for their middle school years, and take it with them upon graduation. Any student who moves away after the first year or withdraws from FCS may take their device with them (as long as all purchase payments have been made).

6 Will families need to provide any accessories?

The only required accessory is a pair of wired earbuds.

If your student has an iPad, some students prefer to use an Apple pencil. This is not required, but if desired must be purchased on your own.

7 My child already has a device. Will they be able to use that one?

Unfortunately, students are not allowed to bring their own iPads, computers, or mobile devices to campus. This is due to the specific configurations of devices as well as online access to our protected wireless network.

8 May students opt out of using devices altogether?

The short answer is, no. Requiring students to use the school-issued device guarantees the proper specifications and assures learning continuity in the classroom. FCS will utilize a mobile device management system (Meraki) which allows us to control and update the configuration of the device and remotely add software updates.

9 When will students receive their student devices? Will there be any training for students on how to use the devices?

Students will receive their device at the beginning of the school year. They will be trained in the use of the device, Google Classroom, use of apps, and digital citizenship.

10 Do students get to take the iPads home and during vacations?

The current program is designed for students to use the student device in the classroom. This will guarantee that the student devices are fully charged and accessible to students each day. It will also allow the school to make all software updates that Apple may require.

11 Who is responsible if the device is broken, lost or stolen?

Students are financially responsible for all damages to their assigned student device that are not covered by the warranty. Students may not have the student device repaired outside of FCS because any non-Apple repairs will void the Apple contract. If a lost student device cannot be recovered, parents will be responsible for the replacement cost.