



Manor Lakes College

Manor Lakes Prep-12 College
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RE: 1:1 iPad Program – 2014 **Middle Years: Years 6, 7 & 8**

September, 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In 2014 we are continuing on our journey to deliver high quality teaching and learning programs with the aide of technology integration. This year we were recognised as an Apple Distinguished School, an achievement that carries a great deal of pride amongst our college community. The achievement of this recognition has certainly in no uncertain terms, come as a request of the astounding work that both our teachers and students have done to use high end technology to support teaching and learning practices.

2014 will see our college continue to grow in its implementation and use of technology as we further our 1:1 programs across the school. Students will continue to be creative, innovative and collaborative with their devices to assist them in meeting valuable student learning outcomes whilst being engrossed in 21st century teaching and learning practices.

We want our students to strive for excellence through a personalised learning program that integrates the curriculum and fully exploits the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). The use of mobile technology (an iPad) to assist this, along with countless online Web 2.0 programs, social media/networking tools, and iPad Applications, will ensure that we are preparing our students for a new era in personalised learning and digital creation.

Our 1:1 iPad Program will help us achieve all of the above by:

- Providing students with access to their own iPad device. This will ensure that students can create, collaborate and have access to 'Anytime, Anywhere' learning environments.
- Providing strong wireless Internet access that connects all students to local and global online communities.
- Allowing students to access information at hand and to demonstrate their understanding of the curriculum.
- Providing all students with opportunities for rich and relevant learning that is engaging, promotes excellence and is personalised.

For 2014 we will be continuing to encourage the integration and successful growth of the 'BYOD' (Bring Your Own Device) model. This involves parents and families having to purchase an iPad device, if they do not already have full time access to one, for their student at Manor Lakes College in years 6, 7 and 8.

In saying the above, we as a college will also allow students to use iPod Touch devices to assist learning. We do need to emphasise that this will place limitations on what students can achieve due to screen size and therefore recommend iPad devices.

PLEASE NOTE: At the time of printing of this letter, current rumours are that Apple will be releasing newer iPhone and/or iPad device in September/October 2013. Based on past trends, current device prices will be driven down resulting in, usually, cheaper and more accessible technology.

As a college we have investigated ways in which families are to be able to fund the 1:1 iPad program through the BYOD model. This will involve parents and families having to purchase an iPad device, if they do not already have full time access to one for their student at Manor Lakes College.

The fastest and easiest way to purchase a device is via a retail outlet (Apple Store, JB-Hi Fi, Harvey Norman, Big W, Office Works, etc.) or through the Apple Retail Store online. As Apple Australia determines costing's on these devices you will not see a great deal of variance between store prices however occasionally you will notice that extra accessories and the like will often be bundled.

Via Apple's online store, <http://store.apple.com/au>, there are 2 separate purchasing sites which you may find beneficial. The education section, <http://store.apple.com/au-hed>, and the refurbished section, <http://store.apple.com/au-hed/browse/home/specialdeals>.

The education section of the Apple store offers Apple devices at a reduced cost for students. The refurbished store offers Apples devices as reduced costs as they are devices that have been returned to Apple, then refurbished, and sold as used. Refurbished devices carry all brand new Apple warranties as if purchased new.

Additional costs such as screen protectors, covers and any additional accessories will obviously add to costs. As a college, we strongly recommend screen protectors and a sturdy case to limit damages. Websites such as eBay are wonderful for finding these extras at heavily reduced costs.

No matter where your device is purchased from, we as a college are more than happy for that device to be any iPad model. This meaning a 16GB Wi-Fi device, to a 128G Wi-Fi 3G device. The choice is entirely up to you as a family. **NOTE: The iPad requires access to a personal computer; the iTunes software and an iTunes store account.** Students who do not have access to a personal computer (either PC or Mac) will be able to arrange access at the college.

To support families in this journey, new, up to date documentation will soon be released prior to the end of this term. There will also be parent information sessions and evenings in term 4.

For students needing a device for 2014, this will not be required until the beginning of February - 5 months from now.

For more information on our Journey in relation to the iPad trial please visit:
<http://ipads4learning.global2.vic.edu.au/>

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me below either via email or by phoning the college on 9741 4202.

Thank you,

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