



## iPads vs Laptops

With LAPTOPS, students will be able to:

- Type with ease and better format essays
- Access sites that use flash player
- Save research articles from online databases such as Ebsco Host
- Work on journalism and yearbook applications
- Access college applications without errors
- Complete Dual Enrollment homework assignments AT SCHOOL
- Access business class materials including the online textbook and quizzes

Currently, students are using a computer lab, desktop computers, and checking out a handful of laptops to accomplish the above items, all of which are not possible using the iPad. With laptops, SMP students will have more ways to express their creativity, complete work more efficiently, and collaborate with their peers and teachers, which will improve student learning.

# 1:1 Mac Laptop Program

## SMP - 1:1

After much consideration and deliberation, the Sugar Mill Pond campus will become a 1:1 Mac laptop campus. iPads will be available for classroom use but will no longer be the technology issued by the school. Here is what you need to know:

- Students will be required to have a Mac laptop for school starting August 2018
- Personal devices that are Macs will be allowed.
  - *Check out [Apple Education Store Home](#) for discounted prices on Mac laptops*
- 11 in. Mac laptops can be rented from the school for a \$300 yearly fee (this is in addition to the technology fee)
  - *An option to purchase the rented laptop at a prorated amount will be available*
- Free, optional summer classes will be offered at SMP to help students adjust to a new device.

**“They would be gaining a ton of functionality and ease when it comes to producing original work in nearly any capacity.”**

**Mr. Taylor Ducote**

## Frequently Asked Questions

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***Q: Why is a tech fee necessary if students are bringing their own laptops?***

A: Laptops are just one of the many technologies in which students and teachers utilize. Included in the tech fee, students have access to high-speed internet access, Promethean boards and projectors, educational applications, 3-D printers, media equipment, laser cutter, tech support, etc. [Please read more here.](#)

***Q: Why can't my child bring a PC laptop or Chromebook?***

A: Standardizing the device will allow for easy collaboration and create a functional work flow between teachers and students. Also, total cost of ownership for parents and the school is less with Apple products because of their reliability and security.

***Q: What will the school do to keep students safe and secure on laptops?***

A: Keeping your children safe is our utmost priority. To facilitate instruction and ensure internet safety, the internet connection will be protected by a content filter on all laptops at school. The technology department is still testing the possibility of extending the content filtering to home. Media streaming will continue to be limited to preserve internet bandwidth and reduce distractions. Teachers will also be given access to software which allows them to view student screens (personal and school-issued) while they are on campus.

***Q: If I purchase a laptop this school year, can my child start using it now?***

A: Yes. Students can check in their personal device with the Tech Help Desk located in the library at SMP. This year, a fee of \$25 must be paid at the time the device is checked in and the [Personal Device Agreement](#) must be signed. If you have any additional questions about this, please contact [techsupport@ascensionbluegators.org](mailto:techsupport@ascensionbluegators.org)

***Rental Questions:***

***Q: How will the rent-to-own option work?***

A: The \$300 rental fee will be applied towards the purchase price of the laptop. Each year this fee decreases the final buy-out of the laptop.

***Q: Will students be able to keep their laptop over the summer?***

A: Yes, Students will keep the same device from year to year as long as they are enrolled at Ascension. The Ascension Technology Department will not manage or monitor the school device while it is at home over the summer. It is the student's responsibility to take care of the device while it is in their possession.

***Q: What happens if the school laptop needs maintenance or is damaged?***

A: Ascension will provide software support for all laptops. This includes virus removal, updates, training, and software reinstallation. The school will provide hardware diagnostics but will not replace damaged hardware. We would suggest [Apple Care](#) for manufacture defects and/or a third party insurance such as [Worth Avenue Group](#) for accidental damages.