

## **Frequently asked questions regarding Northern Wells Community Schools'**

### **1:1 Digital Learning Initiative and iPads (Updated 7-1-17)**

#### **1. What is the Digital Learning Initiative?**

Northern Wells Community Schools began its digital learning initiative in the 2014-2015 school year. Since then, every NWCS student has been issued an iPad for school use. It is our belief that these devices enhance the learning process and help students reach the goals set forth in our Graduate Profile. We want to put the power of learning in the hands of the learner, so that they have access to information, instruction, and knowledge through a wifi connection. The addition of iPads in the classroom enables students to have immediate access to the internet as well as other software applications. In today's world, it is essential that students learn to use technology appropriately and efficiently.

#### **2. Why iPads?**

Prior to the 2014-2015 school year, NWCS administrators and teachers spent over a year investigating other 1:1 initiatives to determine which devices would best meet the needs of our students. NWCS staff members visited many different school districts, attended several "Technology in Education" workshops, seminars, and conferences, and even practiced with different devices before arriving at the decision to purchase iPads. These devices are reliable and intuitive to use. Students and teachers can create content, collaborate, share, and present easily with iPads. Apps are integrated and work seamlessly together. It is our belief that by putting iPads in the hands of our students and teachers, we are truly unleashing student learning!

#### **3. What iPad will my child receive?**

Students in grades K-12 will be using 32 GB iPads for use at school and/or at home.

#### **4. Does the textbook rental fee include the iPad?**

Yes. The textbook rental fee does include the iPad. Only a portion of the fee is dedicated to paying for the iPad. The other portion is for the other textbook / workbook materials that are needed and repairs and warranty type items (when the warranty expires) on the iPad. A portion of the iPad will be subsidized from the Capital Projects Fund.

## 5. Will my child own the iPad?

The iPads are being leased to purchase after four years. The iPads are considered to be the school's property, just like a textbook. These devices are being used as an instructional tool in lieu of or in conjunction with textbooks. However, students will be allowed to personalize their iPad with photos, apps, and music if parents allow it and the use complies with the NWCS Acceptable Use policy. Students in grades 3 and up will have the same iPad for as long as possible.

## 6. Can my child take the device home for the summer?

No. iPads will be collected at the end of the school year and redistributed at the beginning of the next school year.

## 7. What if my child's iPad is damaged or broken?

For students in grades 3-12, if the iPad is damaged, broken, or not working, it must be turned into the technology department immediately. The technology department will determine if it is a warranty repair. If so, it will be fixed at no cost. If the damage is not a warranty repair, the iPad will be fixed, and the parent will pay for the repair. All iPads will have AppleCare for three years. The cost for each instance of accidental damage will be \$49. Parents will be responsible for the full cost of intentional damage.

## 8. What if my child's iPad is lost or stolen?

If an iPad is lost, **we can immediately, and remotely, disable the device to make it completely useless.** Parents should report a loss immediately to the school, and the school will disable the device. The student will be issued a different iPad, and parents will be charged \$299 to replace the device. If it is stolen, parents should immediately report the theft to the police and the school. **As with a loss, we will remotely disable the iPad so that it is completely useless.**

## 9. What if we have our own iPad?

Although we realize that many families have iPads of their own, unfortunately, it is not possible for these iPads to be used in place of the school devices. School issued iPads are programmed, managed, and monitored by NWCS. School-purchased applications are distributed to these managed devices. It would not be possible to push the apps needed for classes to personal devices.

## 10. What about Internet access?

At school and at home, all internet use on the iPad is filtered through Lightspeed, a CIPA certified filtering system. Access to the internet is filtered in accordance with federal

guidelines. All internet usage is tracked by the filter and can be retrieved should it be needed at any time. There are also Parental Control Apps and Safe Internet Browsers available in the App Store. Teachers are aware that not all students have internet access at home and will work with these students so items they need for homework can be downloaded onto their device while at school. Free wifi access is available at each school building, as well as the Ossian and Bluffton public libraries, and many local restaurants.

**11. What if I receive textbook assistance?**

Families who receive textbook assistance will receive that same assistance for the Technology and Textbook rental this year. Textbook assistance will cover the \$125 for K-2, \$145 for 3-5, and \$165 for 6-12.

**12. Can I pay in installments?**

Yes. As we have done in the past, we can set up a payment plan for you.

**13. Does my homeowner's insurance cover the iPad?**

It is possible that your homeowner's insurance may cover the iPad. To be certain, please contact your insurance agent to see if you can schedule the iPad on your insurance.

**14. Will my child receive his or her iPad again next year?**

Although the iPads will be collected at the end of the school year, there is a system in place to ensure that students will receive the same iPad each year. So, students who take great care of their device will definitely be glad they did so!

**15. What happened with the iPad storage is full?**

The school-owned iPads have 32 GB of storage. Although this seems like a lot, it will fill up quickly. Students are permitted to personalize the devices with their own apps, photos, and music, and this may lead to problems with storage. It is important for students to understand that the primary purpose of the device is education. So, if there is a problem with storage, the first items that will need to be deleted will be personalized items. This may be necessary from time to time in order to keep the iPad functioning at its maximum potential.

**16. Will my student need an Apple ID?**

No. It is now possible for the school to push apps to the devices without an Apple ID. However, if parents want their child to be able to download their own apps, an Apple ID will be necessary. You can find FAQ's for Apple ID's at:

<http://support.apple.com/kb/HT5622>. Additional support can be found at:

<http://www.nwcs.k12.in.us/TechNewsletter.aspx> including steps for creating an Apple ID for students who are under the age of 13.

**17. We have a family Apple ID. Can my child use this?**

We recommend that if students want an Apple ID, they use their own, separate from their family members. This is because an Apple ID is associated with an iCloud account. So, if you share an Apple ID, when your child saves his or her school work to iCloud, it will be saved in your account as well. If you have an iPhone, MacBook, or iPad, your 5 GB of iCloud storage will be shared with your child. This storage is limited and can fill up quickly. If students take photos or make iMovies at school, this will take up quite a bit of room. It is also possible for contacts and other information to be shared between devices, and this can be confusing for all. So, separate ID's are a good idea, but not required.

**18. Will my student get an email account?**

Yes. All NWCS students have their own email account created by the district. Generally, student email accounts are the student's [firstname.lastname@stu.nwcs.k12.in.us](mailto:firstname.lastname@stu.nwcs.k12.in.us).

**19. If I have children at more than one school, do I have to attend an iPad orientation for each?**

No. You only have to attend one iPad orientation session. However, you will need to sign a form for each child indicating you attended an orientation session.

**20. AppleCare**

The iPads issued in 2017-18 will be equipped with AppleCare for three years. Warranty repairs will be fixed at no cost. Accidental damage will cost \$49 for each instance. Students that habitually damage an iPad may cause AppleCare to be voided on that particular device. If this is the case, parents would be responsible for the full cost of future damage to the device.

**21. Is there an option to opt out of receiving an iPad?**

No. iPads will be used in conjunction with or in place of textbooks. It is a required part of the learning process for Northern Wells Community Schools' children. This question would be like asking if there was an option to decline textbooks, which is not allowed.

**22. What if I can't make it to registration to pick up the iPad?**

You child will receive their iPad on the first day of school provided all registration items have been completed and turned in by the parents.

**23. Can students buy their iPads when they graduate?**

No. iPads have been purchased on a four-year lease. Northern Wells Community Schools has not decided yet what will happen with the iPads at the end of the lease.

Selling the iPads back to the students will be one option and is under strong consideration. However, another option will be to use the iPads for a 5<sup>th</sup> year. Also, NWCS may elect to trade in the iPads to reduce the cost of the next 1:1 devices.

**24. Do parents have any say in the choices of applications or any ability to restrict certain uses in any way?**

Parents are in charge of the student and the device when the student is away from school. We recommend setting limits for the iPad when it is at home and not being directly used for school work. If you have concerns about controlling the use of the device, please contact the technology department at your child's school. You can also call central office and be routed to the appropriate person. Additional information regarding adding restrictions on the device can be found at:

<https://www.lifewire.com/how-to-enable-ipad-parental-restrictions-1994492>.

**25. What if I don't want my student to have Facebook or games on the iPad?**

Facebook will be blocked by the school's internet filter. In addition, NWCS has enabled age restrictions on apps. Elementary school children may download apps that are rated 4+. Middle school students may download apps that are listed as 9+, and high school students may download apps that are listed as 12+. If there are particular games / apps you do not want, contact the technology department at your child's school for assistance.