



Mobile Learning Program

KH and MSG Grades 5 - 6

Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated: May 2018

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?

Over a decade ago, a committee of faculty members investigated school laptop programs in which each student was assigned a computer. Known as 1 to 1 programs, the research driven implementation of the 1 to 1 program in the Upper School was seamlessly and successfully integrated into the curriculum with annual technology goals identified by each department area. Professional development has occurred for all faculty members since this program began and our middle school faculty members have continued to grow in their technology integration skills during this time. The result of this commitment is an increased use of and necessity for powerful, wireless, Internet enabled tools for learning.

The charge to explore the possibilities for a 1 to 1 program in the MSG and KH came from an accreditation analysis and numerous requests from community members. A committee comprised of administrative team members and KH and MSG educators was created during the fall of 2012. They examined the Upper School's 1 to 1 program, educational research and KH / MSG's current use of educational technologies. 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 is 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 want 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
- deepens the incorporation of the Academy's 6 C's of 21st century learning

What device will Grade 5 and 6 students be using?

Students will use Chromebooks which are laptop computers that run the Chrome Operating System. Chromebooks are primarily designed to be used while connected to the Internet with support applications that reside on the Web; however, there are a variety of apps that can run offline.

Why Chromebooks?

Chromebooks were chosen for our Grade 5 and 6 students as a means of easing our students and parents into a 1 to 1 learning environment. The use of Chromebooks builds on the successful introduction of the devices in Lower School and provides a relatively inexpensive way to equip students with mobile technology for learning.

Will I need to purchase a Chromebook for my child?

No. The Academy will provide Chromebooks and issue them to students much the same way that textbooks are issued to students for a class.

Which Chromebook will students be using?

Students will use the Lenovo 11.6" 16GB N23 Chromebook (4GB RAM) for the 2018-19 school year.

What additional equipment will be issued with the Chromebooks?

Chromebooks will be issued with a charger, computer bag and identification labels on all parts. All must be turned in 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 \$64 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 theft insurance may be purchased from Worthavegroup.com. Otherwise, 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 is \$305.

We already have a Chromebook. Can my child use it instead of the Academy's Chromebook?

No. 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 Chromebooks. Moreover, the Academy can only provide repairs and technical support for hardware purchased through the Mobile Learning Program.

When will students receive the Chromebooks?

Machines will be introduced to students during an orientation once the school year starts in September. Parents are welcomed to this orientation as well.

Will students be able to take the Chromebook 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 do middle school students receive on the use and care of the machines?

In addition to an initial training session on the use and care of the machine, supplemental sessions will be 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 Criteria* and our Appropriate Use Policy as guides.

Will my child need Internet access at home?

Chromebooks do not require the Internet to operate, but that is their primary mode of operation. At this time, Internet/email access at home is not a requirement. Certainly, there are many advantages to having Internet access at home.

Will students be able to access non-web apps away from school?

Google Docs does allow individuals to edit documents offline and provides automatic sync to their online counterparts when an Internet connection resumes. Some other apps also have offline modes.

Will Chromebooks eliminate textbooks and novels?

No. Teachers anticipate using 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 45-60 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. With the introduction of the 1 to 1 program using Chromebooks, educators have committed to additional professional development to maximize the benefits of these tools for learning in the classroom.

Will students able to print from their computers?

Yes. Chromebooks are configured to print to printers within the Academy. However, as the Academy has been designated as a "green" school, students are encouraged to make wise choices when printing to avoid wasting our natural resources. To print from a Chromebook at home, families will either need to have a "Cloud Ready" printer or a classic printer that is plugged into a Windows or Mac computer with Internet access. More information about printing can be found at this Google site: <http://goo.gl/Zr2BO>. The Academy does not foresee requiring students to print from home using Chromebooks.

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 batteries each school night. In addition, electrical outlets are available in all classrooms and the Media Center.

Where will students keep their computers when they are not being used?

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?

Although Chromebooks have some internal storage, students will be saving most of their work in the cloud using Google Drive. USB thumb drives or external USB hard drives could be used to back up files stored locally.

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	Angie Saylor, Middle School for Girls Director Peter Kelly, Kensington Hall Director	asaylor@ashmi.org pkelly@ashmi.org
Technical Questions	Dino Vandenheede, Director of Technology	dvan@ashmi.org