



MANHEIM TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

21st-Century Learning and the Mobile Learning Initiative

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students;

It is our responsibility as educators and as a district to prepare our students for a future that is still being created and is continually evolving. The 21st-century learning skills of **critical thinking**, **communication**, **collaboration**, and **creativity** are skills that are not limited to any one particular course or subject, but transcend across all disciplines. We want our students to appreciate their local origins while at the same time encouraging them to seek new solutions to problems and create that which is new and expressive. One method to make this happen is through the *meaningful* use of technology to enhance our curriculum.

The district has made a commitment to a 1:1 mobile learning initiative for our students. In addition to traditional learning tools such as pencils and books, the iPad provides another opportunity in which information is presented and explored. We want to give options to our teachers and students to access and acquire knowledge, and then to take that knowledge and thoughtfully communicate it creatively and effectively. We are focusing on how learning and instruction may be enhanced through the responsible and strategic use of technology. It is not about the device; it is about engaging the students and enhancing their learning experience.

We look forward to working with you and following a growth mindset in this evolving initiative, and to learning from you as to what innovative possibilities exist to enhance the learning experiences for all students in the Manheim Township School District.

Sincerely,

Anthony Aldinger
Director of Instructional Technology



“Let’s talk about iPads in the classroom!”

Elementary and Landis Run Intermediate School



Q: *Will iPads be sent home with my child?*

A: iPads will stay in school at the elementary level and for students at LRIS. Each student will be assigned his or her own iPad for the school year to be used in the classroom.



Q: *Will my child be using the iPad all day long?*

A: Just like any other learning tool in the classroom, the iPad will be used when it is most appropriate to meaningfully and creatively engage students in the learning. Reading books, using crayons, listening to a teacher read aloud, as well as the traditional pencil and paper activities, are still part of the classroom experience.



Q: *What about student safety and security with the use of the iPad?*

A:

1. Each student will have an individual passcode, which will be used to unlock the screen.
2. Students are not able to load extra software/apps on iPads. Manheim Township School District will sync the devices so they contain the necessary apps for school-related work.
3. Teachers will be able to monitor activity on all student iPads through the use of **Apple Classroom**. This allows teachers to see every student’s screen or to share information to all students at the same time.
4. All apps will go through a vetting process and any apps and interactive online resources that are used in the classroom will be shared with parents. For more information, please visit <https://www.mtwp.net/about/technology/apps-websites/>



Q: *What is the responsibility of my child to care for the iPad in school?*

A: We will work with students to understand that the use of the district technology resources is a privilege, not a right. School-issued iPads are the property of Manheim Township School District. We will integrate digital citizenship lessons into our curriculum to promote appropriate use of technology. In the event that a student misuses the school district issued iPad, or any other technology devices, in a school setting, the appropriate consequences will be issued according to school code of conduct and School Board Policy.



Q: *What is my responsibility as a parent or guardian?*

A: Talk to your child about the values and the standards they should follow on the use of the Internet, just as you do on the use of all media information sources like television, phones, movies, and music in your own home. An excellent resource is **CommonSenseMedia.org**.