

**Pemberton Township Schools**  
**Helen Fort / Newcomb**  
**1:1 Mobile Device Initiative**  
***Frequently Asked Questions***

1. How is the district growing this initiative?

The district has made the commitment to continuing the tablet initiative. This year the district will supply iPads to a pilot group of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>h</sup> graders. Budget allowing, next year the district will provide iPads to all middle school students.

2. What type of one to one student to mobile device is the district using?

At the middle school, the district is using Apple iPad 2 tablets with protective case, power cord, and carrying case.

3. I do not want my child to participate. Can I opt out of participation?

Yes, although we strongly encourage you to participate. Students who opt out of the program will be given alternate learning tasks to meet the same curriculum and assessment goals and standards.

4. How will the teacher use the device in the classroom?

The device will be used in all content areas. In some cases, it will be used to enhance instruction by providing more access to existing programs and subject specific applications. It will be used in every content area providing opportunities for students to incorporate 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. The four C's will be the focus of instructional activities: critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication. It will also be used to provide consistency for the students between home and school.

5. When do the students receive their devices?

The devices will initially be distributed at the beginning of the second semester 2016 to pilot group participants. Thereafter, in the 16-17 school year the devices will be distributed to all middle school students at the beginning of the school year. Devices will be distributed to only those students who have returned a signed Student Agreement for Personal Digital Learning Devices.

6. What if the student is not available during distribution?

Technical staff will coordinate with teachers for a mutually agreeable time for device distribution.

7. Will the student be allowed to take the device home during the school year?

Yes. Throughout the year, the device may be randomly collected for security inspection and / or additional software installation.

8. Will the student be allowed to take the device home over the summer?

No. All devices will be collected at the end of the school year. This will allow our technical staff to do upgrades and general maintenance. The same iPad will be issued to the student the following year. Students should save all files they want to access again to google docs.

9. What happens if the device stops working?

We have full time technicians at Helen Fort / Newcomb who will be available for repairs. If the device cannot be repaired in a reasonable timeframe, the student will be issued a loaner device.

10. What happens if the student forgets the device at home?

As with textbooks and other instructional resources, if a student leaves them at home they may share with a classmate for the day. Students have access to their Google accounts where they store their work; therefore they should have access to their work from any computer. If this becomes a regular occurrence, parents/guardians will be notified and a corrective action plan will be developed.

11. What happens if the student forgets to charge the battery or the battery dies during the school day?

The students will be asked to bring their device to school fully charged. A full charge will last 12 hours.

12. Can I plug in my computer during the day?

No. Power cords should be left at home. We are trying to avoid students bringing in the power cords and losing them. If a power cord is lost, you will be billed for a replacement and the current cost is approximately \$60.

13. What happens if the device is damaged accidentally?

The district has purchased Apple Care Accidental Damage Service for each unit. This program picks up where the limited warranty leaves off – covering accidental damage such as spills, electrical surges, accidental breakage, drops, falls or other collisions. Damage caused by intentional acts, fire, theft or loss is not covered under this program and will be handled as an act of vandalism.

14. What happens if the device is stolen?

If the device is stolen, you must immediately report the theft to the local police as well as your assistant principal and fill out a missing item report. All parties will do their best to locate and recover the device. In the event that the tablet is unable to be recovered, the parent/guardian is responsible for paying the replacement cost of the device. Students should take extreme care and responsibility for the device.

15. Can the students store their work on the device?

Students are encouraged to save all of their work by saving it into a Google account. Work that is done using Google Docs is automatically saved to the student's Google account. All work must follow the acceptable use policy and is subject to inspection and viewing at any time.

16. Do the students have e-mail accounts?

Yes. Each student has an e-mail account through the district's Google platform. We have full control of the domain and therefore can monitor the student's e-mail. The Pemberton Township Schools Acceptable Use Policy is applicable to all student communications.

17. Can the students install or download software on the device?

No. The district will wirelessly install applications that are required by the instructional program. All copyright and licensing procedures must be strictly adhered to and copies of site/computer licenses will need to be presented.

18. What privacy rights does the student have with storing material on the device?

Students may store material on the device as long as they follow the guidelines and protocols outlined in the Acceptable Use Policy. Devices may be collected randomly and scanned throughout the school year. Because the tablets are the property of the district, the administration does have the right to search the content on the computer should a concern arise though this will not be a typical practice.

19. Does the device have a camera installed?

Yes. Students will be encouraged to use the camera to communicate and collaborate with other students, educators, and other professionals across the world as prescribed by the curriculum and sanctioned by the acceptable use policy. District personnel will have no access to cameras when tablets are home with students. If you are uncomfortable with the camera while at home, you can place tape or paper over the camera to be certain there is no camera access. Earlier in 2013, the state of New Jersey passed the Anti-Big Brother Act. The new law, which went into effect on July 1, 2013 states that the district will provide the pupil and parent with written or electronic notification that the technology device provided by the school may record or collect information on the pupils activities or the pupil's use of the technology device if the device is equipped with a camera, global positioning system, or other feature capable of recording or collecting information on the pupil's activity or use of the device. This notification shall also include a statement that the school district shall not use any of these capabilities in a manner that would violate the privacy rights of the pupil or any individual residing with the pupil. The parent shall be required to acknowledge the receipt of the notification and the acknowledgement shall be retained by the Principal or designee for as long as the pupil retains the use of the school district provided technology device.

20. What happens if the student does not have internet access at home?

The student will have internet access during the school day. We will also offer time after school for students to access the internet on school property. Other community locations, offer the public free access to the internet. Please also reference Comcast's Internet Essentials Program.

21. What additional costs or fees are the parents responsible for paying?

At the present time there is no technology fee for the program. However, parents/guardians are responsible for the cost of any repairs that are not covered by the district-purchased insurance or if a stolen/lost unit is unable to be recovered.

22. What is the cost of the device?

The tablet, including case, power cord, carrying case, and insurance costs about \$645.

23. Do parents have the option to supply their own computer?

Parents do have the option of supplying their own computer. However, our software licenses do not allow us to install software on a non-district owned computer. In addition, students who provide their own computer, will have to use our guest network, which is more restrictive than our regular network.

24. Will cases be provided?

Yes.

25. I am concerned about safety on the bus during transportation, Will someone speak with the bus drivers?

Yes. We will have conversations with the bus drivers, after school program providers, and staff at PTHS regarding care and safety of the device.

26. Will I be able to access wireless and the internet at home?

Yes. A tutorial to connect to your home wireless network is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-RU5znuT5g>.

27. Is the entire Helen Fort building wireless?

Yes.

28. How will you ensure that social interactions that are development appropriate continue to occur?

We will continue to focus on character development, good citizenship and social interactions. The last thing we want is a classroom full of students constantly staring at a computer screen. We need to strike a delicate balance that teaches our students how to communicate and collaborate with their peers, teachers, other adults, students from other countries and other professionals.

29. Will we incorporate green activities and limit the amount of printed-paper generated?

Yes, as much as possible we will try to use e-communications and reduce the amount of printed-paper. Parents/guardians should understand that by doing so they may “see” less homework and assignments in the traditional homework folder.

30. Will teachers be okay receiving assignments electronically and not printing them out?

Yes, although teachers will need time to implement e-grading strategies. Parents should note that it might take teachers longer to use an e-grading or e-assignment strategy than to use traditional paper and pencil grading and assessment strategies. The quantity of assignments may decrease; however, the quality of the feedback given on assignment will increase.

31. Where will students store the tablets? In lockers? In classrooms?

It is anticipated that students will take the device to each class. We are working on the logistics of storing the devices during times when they will not be in use. When classrooms are vacant, classroom teachers lock their doors.

32. I am concerned about the maturity level. Will students have access to social networking sites? Will certain sites be restricted?

We will teach the students to be digitally responsible. The district currently uses a web filter which blocks certain sites. We are currently working to extend our filters beyond our school buildings. Most wireless routers that you have at home have the ability to block any sites that you wish. Please check the documentation that came with your router or check on the manufacturer's website for more information.

33. Will students have their textbooks on their tablet?

Not all textbooks are available for download and viewing on the tablet. However, many of our publishers have excellent online supplemental, remedial, enrichment, and critical thinking activities that students may access.

34. Did you reach out to other schools or districts that have had a 1:1 mobile device initiative in place?

Yes. We visited and discussed the initiative with Monroe Township, Hillsborough and Upper Township Schools, who have done this for a number of years. They shared all of their resources, policies and lessons learned. We also researched other schools and reviewed their implementation plans.