



Dear Parents,

The New Community School strives to provide excellent, multisensory instruction with the goal of preparing students for college and beyond. We believe that technology holds limitless potential to augment traditional pedagogy, allowing our teachers to provide a richer, more interactive, and more individualized educational experience for our students. Furthermore, we believe that technology can level the playing field for students with specific language-related learning differences by providing multiple means of communication, content production, and access of information. In creating an environment in which technology is an essential tool for education, we believe we are equipping and preparing students for citizenship in tomorrow's society, in which technology will undoubtedly be even more prevalent than it is now.

**In the Upper School (Grades 9-12) and 8<sup>th</sup> grade**, students will be required to bring an Apple laptop computer. For those of you considering a new purchase, please choose between the MacBook Pro and the MacBook Air. The Pro is more durable and has more memory as well as a DVD drive. The Air is a lighter option with a longer battery life, but is less durable and has no DVD drive. The school will provide each student with Microsoft Office, available for download onto 5 devices. Students will receive any necessary assistance installing Office during the first month of school.

**In the Middle School (Grades 5-7)**, students will be required to bring a standard sized iPad or iPad Mini with a minimum of 32 GB of memory and a protective covering of your choice. Families may elect to purchase a keyboard for the iPad as well. Throughout the year, teachers may ask students to download additional software or apps to their devices to help meet instructional goals or to meet the needs of individual students. In many cases, these downloads will be free, but some may come at an additional cost. **A list of apps that should be downloaded to the iPad before the first day of school will be placed on the school website and emailed to parents later this summer.**

The success of this technology initiative relies on the partnership, cooperation, and communication between the school and parents. As always, we thank you for your support and trust. Please don't hesitate to call me with any questions.

Best,

Nancy Foy