Dear Middle School Students and Families,

If you have ever lost important papers or projects due to a computer failure, you know how important it is to back up your data. Your iPad is no different!

Backing up your iPad is just as important as backing up files on your desktop or laptop. Before you begin, you have to decide which of the two backup options will work best for you – iCloud or iTunes.

**OPTION 1: iCloud**

Apple’s iCloud service provides a number of ways to back up the data on your iPad, including music and apps. You can automatically back up data, settings, photos, and documents to iCloud simply by turning its Backup feature on.

**Getting Started with iCloud**

To use iCloud, you need to be running iOS 5 or higher and have a wireless network at your home.

1. Then go to **Settings -> iCloud -> Storage & Backup.**
2. Slide iCloud Backup to **On.** Users get 5 GB of free storage on iCloud.
3. You will need to login using your personal iTunes account. If multiple users in your household are backing up to the same iTunes/iCloud account, you may want to consider creating a new Apple ID used only for your iCloud backup. Each device can backup to its own iCloud account even if you are sharing the same Apple ID for apps and music purchases.
4. There are a variety of options to configure - turn on the features you wish iCloud to back up.

iCloud automatically backs up the most important data on your iOS 5 device. After you have enabled Backup on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch in **Settings > iCloud > Backup & Storage,** it will run on a daily basis as long as your device is:

- Connected to the Internet over Wi-Fi
- Connected to a power source
- Screen locked

You can also back up manually whenever your device is connected to the Internet over Wi-Fi by choosing **Back Up Now** from **Settings > iCloud > Storage & Backup.**
OPTION 2: iTunes

Every time you sync your iPad to your computer that has iTunes installed, an iPad backup is automatically saved on your computer. So, if you ever need to restore your iPad from a backup, you will be able to choose this backup to restore your device.

Getting Started with iTunes

iTunes can create backups of your iOS device when you:

- Sync with iTunes to your desktop or laptop (disabled if you have iCloud backup turned on)
- Right-click (or Control-click) the iOS device in iTunes under Devices and choose Back Up

Use these steps to manually back up your iOS device using iTunes:

1. Connect your iOS device to a computer with the latest version of iTunes installed
2. Select your iOS device in iTunes under Devices
3. Right-click (or Control-click) the device and select Back Up

iOS device backups preserve your settings, the Camera Roll (or Saved Pictures), and other important data.

You must remember to connect your device to iTunes to create a backup. Best practices would be to backup your iPad every few days.

Learn more about what is stored in a backup.

OPTION 3: BOTH iTunes & iCloud
You can backup to iCloud and also connect your device to a laptop or desktop and backup to iTunes. Be aware that iTunes will not back up automatically if you are using iCloud – if you want to use both iCloud and iTunes, you have to manually set iTunes to back up the device.


Other iCloud/iTunes resources include...

iOS: How to back up
http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1766

How to Back Up an iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch Using iTunes
http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2407487,00.asp

How to Back Up an iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch Using iCloud
http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2407494,00.asp

How To Manually Back Up Your iPad to iTunes on Your Computer
http://ipadacademy.com/2012/10/how-to-manually-back-up-your-ipad-to-itunes-on-your-computer

We are encouraging students to select either iCloud or iTunes and backup the iPad as soon as possible.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

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