Dear Parents,

Hathaway Brown School is facilitating the purchase of the iPad for 6th grade students (class 2020) and new students in 7th and 8th grade (class of 2019 and 2018). Our goal is to distribute iPads to students within the first few weeks of school and immediately begin to use the device in the classroom.

To take advantage of the tax-exempt status of the school and the educational discounts our vendors provide, families can purchase their daughter’s iPad through the school. Three iPad choices are available – the 16 gigabyte (GB) iPad2, the 16 GB New iPad (iPad4), and the 32 GB New iPad (iPad4). It is unlikely that the iPad5 and required accessories will be available in time for the 2013-2014 school year.

Although the School will facilitate the purchase, the iPads will be owned and maintained by the families. The total cost for the first year of the initiative is indicated on the iPad Order Form. An app fee (approximately $25) may be required for the second and third year of this program. Families who receive more than 70% of tuition and fees in financial aid are eligible to apply for financial support toward the purchase of an iPad. Submitting an application for financial support does not guarantee that aid will be awarded.

If you already own an iPad (iPad2 or newer) and will allow your daughter to be the primary user of that device, you do not need to purchase a new iPad. However, all families must complete an order form as there will be an app fee to cover school-required app purchases. Additionally, every student will be required to use the same iPad case (the Infocase Fieldmate Case http://www.infocase.com); smart covers and other designer cases will not be allowed. You may also select an optional external keyboard on the order form. External keyboards may also be purchased online or at various local retail locations. Please be aware that the Infocase iPad case will only support external keyboards.

Every iPad comes with one year of hardware repair coverage and 90 days of telephone technical support. We are strongly encouraging families to purchase accidental damage insurance for their daughter’s iPad to cover a variety of issues not covered by the standard warranty (such as screen damage). If you opt out of the insurance coverage, you will need to pay out-of-pocket to repair or replace the iPad within a 7 calendar day period. We are facilitating the purchase of AppleCare+ insurance. AppleCare+ for iPad provides you with two years of repair coverage and technical support from the original purchase date of the iPad. The plan includes coverage for up to two incidents of accidental damage due to handling of the iPad, each subject to a $49 service fee. You can learn more about AppleCare+ at http://www.apple.com/support/products/ipad.html. The purchase of AppleCare+ must occur at the time of purchase.

We will be sending out additional information via email in June in advance of distributing the iPad at the start of the school year. For example, students will need access to an iTunes account for the initial setup of the device. Additionally, every family is asked to complete a Home-Use Contract that will provide structure for managing the iPad outside of school.

Additional information about the Hathaway Brown Middle School iPad initiative can be found at www.hb.edu/mstech. Please contact us with any questions.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Which iPad should we purchase?
Apple offers both the iPad2 (starting at $399) and the New iPad4 (starting $499). The New iPad has a higher resolution display, a larger megapixel camera, and a faster processor. You can compare the specifications between the iPad2 and the New iPad at http://www.apple.com/ipad/compare/. Either device will be acceptable for use in the classroom. If your daughter needs a 32 GB (gigabytes) device instead of a 16 GB device, she must select the New iPad as the iPad2 is only available as a 16 GB model.

Will an iPad1 be acceptable?
The School will not allow the use of the iPad1. Teachers will be planning lessons around the use of the still camera, video camera, and audio recorder. As a result, students using an iPad1 will not have access to the necessary tools for completing projects using the iPad. Additionally, the iPad1 is not able to be updated to iOS6, the most updated operating system for iPads. Some of the apps used at school require currently iOS6.

How much space will my daughter need? A 16 GB or 32 GB?
Think of the iPad as your daughter’s digital locker. This is where she will be storing all of her digital papers and media. We surveyed HB students using the iPads. In 5th grade, students are using the 16 GB model, and most every iPad has almost half of the space still free. These students are not allowed to install their own personal apps. In 6th and 7th grade, the usage varies widely with students using both 16 GB and 32 GB. In making this decision, we would encourage you to discuss with your daughter how you expect her to use the device. Priority will be given to school-required applications. If she will be allowed to download her own iTunes music and install personal apps, then a 32 GB iPad may be beneficial. For school required applications, a 16 GB iPad will be sufficient. Just like their lockers at school, the students will need to set aside time to keep their digital lockers clean.

Why are we standardizing the case?
Every student will be required to use the same iPad case; smart covers and other designer cases will not be allowed. In discussions with faculty and parents, we believe that a standard case among Middle School students aligns with our clothing uniform policy and ensures that student pressure to have a designer case will not be a concern. Additionally, we have selected a case that will better stand up to the wear and tear of a typical Middle School student. The Infocase was highly recommended as a sturdy case by many other independent schools with iPad programs (see video at http://bit.ly/infocasetesting).

How much money do we save by purchasing through the School?
Hathaway Brown School receives a small discount per device from Apple and from the vendor we use to purchase the iPad cases. We also qualify for 50% off apps when purchased in bulk. Finally, we are a tax exempt organization. Overall, we are able to pass along approximately $100 in savings to our families who purchase through the School.

Should I purchase a keyboard for my daughter?
External wireless keyboards are allowed, and a keyboard is being offered as an option on the order form. We encourage you to discuss the keyboard option with your daughter as it is a personal decision. We surveyed 7th grade students, and approximately half of the students who responded indicated they did not want a keyboard.

Why did the School select the Wi-Fi only model and not the 3G model?
We did not believe we could justify the added expense of the 3G model. These iPads cost $130 more per device in addition to a monthly fee. With access to WiFi throughout the school, we believe that the Wi-Fi model will meet all of our needs.