Dear Parents,

Hathaway Brown School is facilitating the purchase of the iPad for 6th grade students (class 2022) and new students in 7th and 8th grade (class of 2021 and 2020). Our goal is to distribute iPads to students at the start of the school year 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. Two iPad choices are available for purchase – the 64-gigabyte (GB) iPad Air 2 and the 128 GB iPad Air 2. 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 (iPad 2 or newer, or an iPad Air or newer / not an iPad mini) 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 in grades 6 and 7 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 for new iPad purchases. 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, and there are some Frequently Asked Questions listed below.

Please contact us with any questions.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much space will my daughter need? A 64 GB or 128 GB iPad?
Think of the iPad as your daughter’s digital locker. This is where she will be storing all of her digital papers and media. In evaluating usage over the past few years, we do not believe the 16 GB or 32 GB model provides sufficient storage for three years of use – if your daughter already owns a 16 GB or 32 GB model, you do not need to purchase a new device (read more below). In making this decision, we 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 128 GB iPad may be beneficial. For school-required applications, a 64 GB iPad will be sufficient for most of the students. Just like their lockers at school, the students will need to set aside time to keep their digital lockers clean.

Will an iPad1 or iPad Mini be acceptable?
The School will not allow the use of the iPad1 or iPad Mini. 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 cannot be updated to iOS8, the most updated operating system for iPads. Some of the apps used at school require iOS8. We also believe that the screen size of the iPad Mini is not sufficient for use at school.

What if we already own a 16 or 32 GB iPad 2, iPad Air, or iPad with Retina Display?
Students will be allowed to use any 16 or 32 GB iPad except for the iPad1 and the iPad Mini. iPads with only 16 GB of space will work for all classroom applications. However, your daughter will have to be extra vigilant in ensuring she has sufficient space for school applications. You can compare the specifications of the different iPads at http://www.apple.com/ipad/compare/.

Why are we standardizing the case?
Every student in 6th and 7th grade 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 other independent schools with iPad programs (see video at http://bit.ly/infocasetesting).

Why are 8th grade students allowed to select their own case?
We believe that 8th grade students are mature enough to select a case that fits their needs but also provides sufficient protection for the device. As they transition to the 9th grade, students will be able to select the technology device that works best for them, so the selection of their own case in 8th grade is an appropriate step in that transition. Students and their families should discuss which case would protect the iPad sufficiently. Students may continue to use the Infocase, or they may select any case available.

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 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 Wi-Fi throughout the school, we believe that the Wi-Fi model will meet all of our needs.