

Grade 6-8 Technology Needs

2026-2027 School Year



We are very conscious that implementation of our successful Apple 1:1 program depends on the support of our parents. We would like to express our gratitude to you, as you will be providing an iPad for your son or daughter to use at school.

Students entering grades 6-8 at HTS are required to have an iPad for school. Here are the specifications:

- It need not be a new device, but it must meet the system requirements and be able to efficiently run the most current iOS (iOS 26.x). In general, these are some important criteria:
 - iPad 10th Generation or newer, the 5th generation or newer iPad Air, or any 3rd generation or newer iPad Pro
 - 64 GB of storage minimum (128+ GB recommended)
 - Wifi only is preferred. Devices with cellular access will be outside of the protections of the HTS network.
 - Has a lightning connector or USB-C connector (USB-C is preferred)
- Any iPad, iPad Air, or iPad Pro (not iPad Mini) currently available for sale from the Apple store is ideal. The iPad Pro is not recommended as it is very expensive and the extra features are not likely to be very beneficial in a school environment.
- **The current iPad Air (M4) is the best value for future support, power, and features.**
- If you are repurposing a home device or buying refurbished, the following devices are problematic;
 - All iPads with 30 Pin connectors - they are much too old to use current software
 - Any iPad Mini - the small size makes it hard to use effectively
 - iPad 5th Generation and older - no pencil support
- AppleCare is highly recommended for new devices. It covers accidental damage which can come in handy.
- Recommended Accessories: Apple Pencil, Inexpensive, [wired headphones](#) with a built in microphone for school use, **A sturdy case**, an extra charger for school. Wired headphones can be connected with adapters like [this](#) or [this](#), depending on what charging port your iPad has.
- There are more and more very inexpensive generic stylus' now. Some work well, some do not. Read reviews before purchasing. The biggest annoyance with them is that they charge with a cable, not via the iPad. Make sure the cable used is a standard USB-C type. One of our IT team has one, and it came with a very odd charging cable. If that charging cable were to be lost, the device is now unusable. Otherwise, it works well.
- Keyboards and other peripherals are completely optional. Expensive headphones should be kept at home. Cheaper Bluetooth headphones are NOT recommended as the microphone quality is often subpar.
- We recommend that students keep an extra charger in their bag or locker, particularly if the device is older.
- Please properly **label** all devices and accessories that are sent to school.

Setting Up your Child's Device

- Your child should have **their own Apple ID** and they should know the password and have permission to purchase apps.
 - Consider [Family Sharing](#) if you have multiple Apple devices in your home.
 - We recommend the purchase of additional iCloud storage (\$1.29/month) if your child's device goes beyond the free 5GB provided with an Apple ID.
- Provide gift card money on the account (less than \$20) but do not attach a credit card unless you feel confident that your child is trustworthy.
- Do NOT turn on Content & Privacy Restrictions in the Screen Time settings as it makes the iPad very difficult to use in school. Please know and understand that we will be monitoring the device while at school, and our network has a number of safety measures running on it to keep your children safe.
- Set up a passcode and discuss responsibility around keeping devices secured and the passcode secret.
- Talk about online safety and time management at home.
- Set some guidelines for appropriate use and consequences for improper use in your home.
(Recommended Reading: *Screenwise - Helping Kids Thrive (and Survive) in Their Digital World* - Devorah Heitner PhD)
- Communicate with your child's teachers if you are concerned about technology addiction or challenges with self-management. We need to work as a team to support any challenges in this regard.
- **APP LIST** : Please install all the required apps to get started. The APP list is [HERE](#).
- In early September, all students will receive several hours of support and guidance around management of their devices. Teachers will continue this work by reinforcing the concepts in day to day work.
- If a student would like to come to school with their own secondary technology, HTS allows it, but the iPad must always be brought to school.
- Should a student need to borrow a laptop or iPad because theirs is being repaired, the IT department/teAch centre keeps a limited number of devices available for short-term loans.
- If a student is struggling to use their technology appropriately (eg. difficulty installing a new operating system) or something is not working properly, there is help available through our [Technology Support Services](#). If necessary, we will help make the decision as to whether or not the repair needs to go to the Apple store.
- For new families, we will provide family workshops in July and August with guidelines around accessing usernames and passwords and how to get your device ready for the first day of school. To book your session, please click [here](#). It is important that all devices are on hand for these sessions and that at least one parent also attends.