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Saint Ignatius College Prep
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Saint Ignatius College Prep to Implement Apple iPad Devices for All Students and Teachers

Chicago, IL – October 15, 2012

At the beginning of the current school year, Rev. Michael P. Caruso, S.J., the President of Saint Ignatius, announced that this school year would have the important goal of determining what was needed for Saint Ignatius to become an iPad school by the start of the next school year. As the officers of the school, along with its technology, library, and academic administration departments continued to explore this goal, it has been determined that it is feasible and desirable for the school to move forward on this important project.

Saint Ignatius College Prep is now excited to announce that all students in the school will have access to an Apple iPad for the 2013-2014 school year.



Saint Ignatius has been investing in technology upgrades for years. As a result, the iPad program put forth by Fr. Caruso, S.J., was very much in line with work that the school's technology committee had been doing over the past several years. This includes the current "bring your own" program that has allowed students the option to bring their own computing devices to school.

School Principal, Dr. Catherine Karl, said, "We fully anticipate that each student will have an iPad next year and will be using it in all classes, in most cases replacing textbooks. A complete plan including a timeline is forthcoming, but we will be getting iPad devices into the hands of teachers first so they can get a jump start on this new technology."

Professional development and training for teachers on using the iPad will take place throughout the current school year and will also occur in department meetings, during the school's February in-service day and at other times. Recently, members of the school's technology committee attended an all-day session at the Apple offices in Chicago regarding the iPad program. This group was able to bring information back to school departments and will be instrumental in planning ongoing professional development once teachers receive their iPad devices.

When asked about the iPad program, English teacher, Tony Harris, said, "I'm encouraged by the possibilities the iPad will bring into my classroom. I already have several students with e-readers who have demonstrated how valuable it is to have instant access to dictionaries for the texts we read in class. The iPad devices move this executive function up the ladder of cognition."

Saint Ignatius has been working with Apple on a work template that will include continued infrastructure upgrading, compatibility with current systems, hardware and software including apps. This multi-layer initiative will come to life during the year.

John Chandler, Saint Ignatius College Prep's VP of Development and Operations, said, "In order to ensure a smooth implementation of the iPad program, the school is finalizing plans for the infrastructure support and developing a cost analysis for those needed improvements. The school is also committed to making this program affordable for all families."

Currently, textbooks can cost anywhere from \$500 or more per year for each student. As students get into the upper grades, the costs go up from there, especially if the student is taking Advanced Placement classes. Greg Gleason, the School's Vice President of Finance, said, "I'm very excited about iPad devices coming to Saint Ignatius in the classrooms. Although it may seem there would be a large upfront cost to acquire this technology, the reduced text book expenses over the next four years will be financially beneficial to our families and students."

Teacher Megan Doherty, said, “I think this will change the culture of our learning community in a very positive way. This is going to transform the classroom experience and provide for individualized learning opportunities outside the classroom. Students can come to class with their individualized portfolio of photos, poems, movie clips, music videos, examples of an assigned archetype—all stored in one place—and share with a small group. Instead of seeing a couple of examples from the teacher directed class, students will have an unlimited number of examples to reinforce their understanding of the concept.”

The next step of the project is to begin with teachers and to put iPad devices with apps in their hands as soon as possible. The Board of Trustees of Saint Ignatius has enthusiastically affirmed the direction and timing of the iPad initiative that will include purchase of iPad devices, apps, and infrastructure upgrades necessary to support this program.

Please visit the links below for more information about the benefits of using iPad devices in the classroom.

<http://www.wired.com/gadgetlab/2012/01/ipad-educational-aid-study/>

http://www.readwriteweb.com/archives/how_the_ipad_is_changing_education.php

SAINT IGNATIUS COLLEGE PREP MISSION STATEMENT: Saint Ignatius College Prep, a Jesuit Catholic school in the heart of Chicago, is a diverse community dedicated to educating young men and women for lives of faith, love, service and leadership. Through outstanding teaching and personal formation, the school challenges its talented student body to intellectual excellence, integrity, and life-long learning and growth. Inspired by the gospel of Jesus Christ, this community strives to use God's gifts to promote social justice for the greater glory of God.

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