



LOYALSOCK TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear students and parents/guardians:

We are very excited to launch an educational opportunity for the 2013-14 school year for students in grades 8-12 that we believe will take learning to a variety of new levels. Beginning this school year, a one-to-one teaching and learning initiative using the Apple iPad will be introduced. Students in grades 8-12 will engage in learning experiences which will continue to prepare them for the 21st century. Currently, many people in whatever occupation, including our alumni, are collaborating, creating, leading and serving in global communities to address the most pressing problems affecting our planet. Loyalsock students today can be part of that global problem-solving effort; they need *21st century tools and skills* in order to prepare them to do that effectively. We believe the iPad is the best tool for the job. We also believe that students will be better prepared for post-secondary learning in colleges, universities, and the world at large as a result of this new venture.

We have been preparing for the integration of the iPads for the past year in a variety of ways. Our faculty have piloted iPads with students in certain coursework; faculty and administrators have attended state and national workshops and conferences in how to best implement such a large task; and, our school district has purchased over 700 iPads and allocated the resources to be able to facilitate the best overall use of these devices for every student. Specifically, a new wireless network has been installed this summer that will allow for reliable and seamless connectivity. In addition, teachers have already begun preparing to integrate these devices into their lesson designs. We have prepared a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page on our website to offer more information about the program.

We envision that iPads will become part of a technological norm that students will face in the world. We see an increased use of digital resources, from e-texts, to learning and productivity apps, to the possibility of instantaneous referencing ability for in-class materials, to helping eliminate the clutter prevalent in lockers and heavy and disorganized texts and notebooks.

Because of the significant cost of the iPad purchase, the district will also utilize insurance protection for each individual student iPad. In order to off-set the insurance cost, a \$50 fee will be required from each student's family at the time of taking receipt of the actual iPad during the first two days of school. We certainly realize the impact this cost may have on some families; please look for additional information coming home about this process. Additionally, we look forward to working with you as our students learn more about the responsible use of technology through appropriate digital etiquette with others, legal implications for misuse, and digital health, safety and wellness.

Obviously, iPads are not the solution to all educational issues. These devices are *tools*, as are your students' smart phones, graphing calculators, compasses, rulers, and paperback novels. Right now, teachers know when to ask students to listen, when to discuss in groups, when to do a lab, when to write a paper at their desks, when to research in a library and when to use a laptop or tablet computer in class. None of this will change this year as students use the iPad as a universal access tool. As excited as we are about our iPad initiative, we are thoroughly convinced that the most important "delivery tool" for our



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students is our faculty. We are blessed to have an amazing group of teachers who will embrace this technology as a way to facilitate learning -- the kind of learning that leads to the development of citizens prepared for the 21st century.

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, please look forward to additional information that will be communicated with you about your son/daughter receiving his/her iPad. The plan is to issue iPads on the first two student school days.

New Back to School Schedule!

We will be beginning the school year differently than in the past. **Please pay close attention to the following schedule:**

- **Tuesday, August 27:** ONLY Juniors and Seniors report to school for iPad orientation, class meetings, and first day activities.

NOTE: On the evening of Tuesday, August 27, your student and at least one parent/guardian will be expected to attend a brief training session and receive his/her iPad.

- **Wednesday, August 28:** ONLY Freshman and Sophomores report to school for iPad orientation, class meetings, and first day activities.

NOTE: On the evening of Wednesday, August 28, your student and at least one parent/guardian will be expected to attend a brief training session and receive his/her iPad.

In the meantime, please access the HS webpage that houses many more materials and information relative to the iPad initiative: www.loyalsocklancers.org/iPad. Feel free to view links on these pages for more answers to your questions, or email your student's school principal(s) with specific questions. Thank you for your support and your confidence as we launch this exciting new opportunity.

Sincerely,

Dr. Matt Reitz
HS Principal

Mr. Chad Greevy, IV
Assistant Principal



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