

LOYALSOCK TOWNSHIP SECONDARY CAMPUS

HIGH SCHOOL

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Dr. Matthew Reitz

High School Principal

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High School Assistant Principal



PREPARE. ENGAGE. INSPIRE.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Mr. Robert Gaetano

Middle School Principal

Mr. Ron Insinger

Athletic Director

IMPORTANT - iPad INFORMATION

August 19, 2013

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Loyalsock Township School District and Board of School Directors are pleased to begin our iPad initiative for the 2013-14 school year. Every high school student and student in grade eight will be issued his/her own iPad to use both at school and at home during enrollment in the school district. Recently, Jeff Bezos, founder and CEO of the Amazon corporation and who just purchased the *Washington Post* newspaper said: "It is dangerous not to evolve in the world economy if you have means." Based on research we have done, the use of the iPad in a school setting is arguably one of the most significant ways to impact student motivation toward school, increase learning and achievement, and prepare students for a 21st century environment that all students will soon enter.

Goals for the iPad Initiative

- To increase student engagement and motivation through student-created content and reinvented teacher-created content.
- To enhance teacher use of technology to facilitate new and existing instruction and curricula.
- To prepare all students for proficiency on various assessments, including Keystone Exams, SATs, AP Exams, NOCTI.
- To provide more of a "learn anytime/anywhere" approach with student acquisition of content and skills.
- To increase opportunities for additional communication modes common in the 21st century.

Process for Receiving the iPad - IMPORTANT!

- As noted in a previous mailing home, we will begin school this year by having two separate starting days from classes of students. ***Only students in grades 11 & 12 should report to school on Tuesday, August 27. Only freshmen and sophomores should report to school on Wednesday, August 28.***
- During these first two days, students will:
 - Learn about the expectations and guidelines for using the device.
 - Learn about digital citizenship and receive an introduction to the function of digital learning.
 - Set up his/her iPad by downloading various school-purchased apps and learning how teachers will begin integrating the iPad in their classrooms.
 - At the end of the first day, students will return their iPad to their homerooms.

- Then, on the evening of the first two student days, **we invite parents and students to the auditorium on the dates and times below in order to receive your student's iPad:**

- **11th and 12th grades: Tuesday, August 27 @ 6 p.m.**
- **9th and 10th grades: Wednesday, August 28 @ 6 p.m.**

- **You and your child are required to attend to receive the iPad, along with the signed student and parent agreement.** We realize this evening may be inconvenient for some, but it is crucial in order to make sure that students are prepared to take ownership of an iPad and successfully begin using it in classes on Day 3 of school this year.
- **Student Insurance Fee** - One significant and important item is the cost to insure each device, should the device be damaged or lost. The District will assess a **refundable, one-time fee of \$50** (check or cash) to students in grades 8 through 12 **over the lifetime/timeframe each student takes ownership of the iPad.** This fee is to cover the cost of any repairs or damage to student iPads. The District has purchased insurance on the iPads and must pay a deductible whenever an iPad is damaged. Students who claim a financial hardship, and are receiving free or reduced lunch, may be assessed a lower fee of \$25. Those students claiming extreme financial hardship should contact their respective building principal who will address each situation. **The \$50 fee will be refunded to families when/if students either transfer from the District or upon graduation from Loyalsock Township High School.**

(Over, please)



Update on Process in Preparation for Using the iPads

- A brand new, powerful wireless network is installed and ready.
- Faculty training and preparation has been occurring throughout the summer.
- Student iPads are loaded and ready to be issued.
- Technology staff, administrators, and teachers have been working tirelessly to prepare teachers and students to each receive his/her own iPad at the beginning of the 2013-14 SY.
- A host of District staff have attended conferences, received training, and visited other schools that are currently integrating an iPad initiative.

Summary

iPads and devices like it are not just social media and gaming tools that kids use for entertainment almost every day. This is not a Wii, Playstation, or X-Box. These devices are literally much more powerful than a social media tool or game. iPads are a mammoth educational device, capable of exposing our kids to learning that they have never experienced. Traditional forms of learning in a classroom will be transformed; students will be more engaged in learning; and, we look toward the future by giving them a device they likely will use for years to come as they enter a world of career and college readiness.

Obviously, we realize that iPads are not the solution to all educational issues. These devices are *tools*, similar to students' smart phones, graphing calculators, compasses, rulers, and paperback novels. Students may use their iPad for school and personal use throughout the school year and take it to/from home just like any other material or resource they use currently. Pedagogically, 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. Little of this will change this year as students begin use of 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 learning is our faculty.

Join us in this very worthy solution as we continue to find the best ways to expose your kids to one of the best types of learning available. **We look forward to seeing all of you on August 27th and 28th at 6:00 p.m. in the Auditorium** as we begin a new chapter in teaching and learning at Loyalsock. Should you have any questions whatsoever, please don't hesitate to contact any of us. Thank you and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Mr. Robert Grantier
Superintendent

Dr. Matthew Reitz
HS Principal

Mr. Chad Greevy, IV
Assistant Principal

Mr. Robert Gaetano
MS Principal

