



Scottsdale Christian Academy 1:1 Technology Program

Parent/Student FAQs

What are the benefits of a 1:1 program?

Instant access to information and Internet resources is transformational. It allows students to take more ownership of their learning and facilitates engagement and a more personalized education experience. Teachers are able to assess student understanding and receive immediate data on their progress. 1:1 access also provides more opportunity for student collaboration and communication – important 21st century skills. As more technology becomes embedded in our everyday life, whether for work or simple convenience, it is important that the school environment teach responsible use of these tools and mirror the real world.

Has SCA investigated BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) programs?

SCA considered a “Bring Your Own Device” (BYOD) program because of the obvious cost savings advantages. From an instructional and support standpoint, it is difficult to teach and troubleshoot on inconsistent devices. This is particularly problematic if the teacher wants to use an app that is only available on a single platform. Distribution of required apps on non-SCA-owned equipment is another potential hurdle, as well as the ability to guarantee the safety and security of the students and the network. If financially feasible, a school-owned 1:1 program is the best option. During the roll-out process, high school students in grades 10-12 only will be able to continue bringing their own device.

Does this mean my student will be on their screen all day long? What about those who worry that kids have too much screen time?

Teachers use technology to varying degrees, taking into account what is appropriate based on their curriculum standards and their students. An important aspect of preparing students for success is preparing them to use technology effectively. This includes an awareness of how to balance technology use based on the task. Current research on screen time shows that the quality and type of media is more important than the amount of screen time. Well-designed educational apps and media use that requires thoughtful interaction are better than passive screen time, such as watching TV. Technology is an additional useful resource to engage learning, but is not intended to replace other forms of instruction and thus will not be on their screens all day long.

How is Digital Citizenship being addressed in our classroom?

Digital Citizenship is the skills and knowledge needed to effectively use the Internet and other technology resources appropriately, safely, responsibly, and respectfully. As technology continues to evolve, our students are exposed to media in new ways and with increased frequency. Administration and the technology department are focused on providing faculty, students and parents with tools and resources to teach digital literacy skills, safety and ethics.

Why was the Microsoft Surface Pro 4 selected?

Many factors went into the decision, including ease of use, compatibility, standard software such as Microsoft Office Suite, and other factors. We are in a time where the device should not be the driver, and with cloud-based technology capabilities many solutions can leverage different device platforms.

What are the specs for the tablet?

The Microsoft Surface Pro tablet has a Core i5 processor that runs the Windows 10 operating system. This 64-bit tablet comes with 128 GB SSD and 4 GB of RAM. It has a 12.3 touchscreen with 2736 x 1824 resolution. It comes with built-in Wi-fi and Bluetooth capability.

Does SCA have the wireless infrastructure to support this and account for the greater quantity of devices and increased network traffic?

Yes! SCA has spent the last two years upgrading their wireless and internet backbone to support a one to one program. Specifically, SCA has upgraded from older 802.11n/g wireless technologies to the newer 802.11ac standard. What this means for students and end-users is that we can now take advantage of greater bandwidth we've achieved by upgrading our internet connection from 25 Mbps to 1 Gbps; that's 40 times faster. More bandwidth and capacity also means we can support more devices.

What else comes with the device? What will I have to purchase?

A protective case, a 4-year warranty including accidental damage, all required apps, power cord, attachable keyboard, and device support at school. If you wish to have a stylus, separate mouse, carrying case, or other accessories, these will need to be purchased separately. In addition, the annual technology fee is required.

What grades are receiving tablets?

This is a four-year high school roll-out process. Freshman will be receiving their tablets each year for the next four years. The Class of 2022 will be the first to receive their tablets and attend the technology rollout training.

Is attending the technology rollout event required?

Yes, attendance is expected of all students who are receiving the device.

My child is not a freshman. Can he or she opt into the program?

Unfortunately, not at this time. However, classes of 2019-2021 will be able to bring their own device from home.

What if we already own the same type of device?

Students are being issued SCA-supported devices, which contain specific instructional software and the support that is required for their classes. This is not recommended because the personal device will be limited in its functionality.

It will be necessary for all students to be using the same device as teachers will be leading class projects that will require students to have the same technology to engage in the learning process.

Do we have to buy the tablet?

No, the cost of the tablet and software is included as part of your tuition. That being said, there is a required technology support fee that assists us in maintaining and supporting the devices and your students while on campus.

Who actually owns the device?

The device is the property of SCA and on loan to the students. It is the student's responsibility to care for the device.

If they all look alike, how can I tell mine apart? Can I personalize my tablet with stickers, covers, or other items?

Each device will have a unique serial number and a label. No, you may not decorate the device. Devices that have pencil/pen/magic marker writing on them, stickers, or any other marks will be viewed as damaged. There will be an associated cost to restore the device to the original condition if damaged.

How does the warranty program work?

If the device is damaged, report this to the Technology department as soon as you can. A loaner will be provided if available.

Is there a device use contract that parents and students will sign?

Yes. See student handbook.

What if the device is lost or stolen?

Report to the Technology department if the device is lost or stolen as soon as you can. Check with your homeowner's or renter's insurance to report the loss. Families may be responsible for replacing the device.

What do I do if my device is not working properly, or if I am having hardware or software issues?

If a student has tried to shut down and restart and is still having issues and further assistance is required, the student will need to visit our Technology Support Desk. If it is determined a student's device is non-operational or needs to be repaired (i.e. screen does not turn on, device will not power on etc.) Students may receive a loaner, if available, to use until it is returned. Under no circumstances should you or anyone else take the computer to a third party for repair

or assistance. SCA Technology Support Staff personnel are the only individuals who should attempt repair on the devices, and make the determination of whether they need to be sent in for warranty repair or replacement.

Should a device become broken due to neglect, intentional damage, is lost or stolen, the student/family should report this to the Technology Support Staff immediately. SCA may charge the student the cost of repair or replacement.

What will tech support look like at SCA?

The Tech Support Staff will coordinate maintenance for students. There will be tech support staff available during school hours on campus in the Technology Center, and students will be educated on the process for visiting the Technology Center and submitting requests.

Is there a policy on how these computers should be used?

The devices will be issued to students to use as a resource for instruction. SCA is implementing a professional development program with all teachers on the effective integration of technology in the classroom. We expect how these devices are used in the classroom will vary based on instructor and subject area. The expectation is that the first year of implementation is a year of discovery – giving teachers the opportunity to provide all students with the quality education expected by our community while learning new ways to integrate technology. Some classes may use these devices as a tool for interactive presentations, data gathering and analysis, creative writing, and in-class processing of content.

Are there planned security measures, such as remote software monitoring, that will be used with student devices?

Yes. The devices are set up to be filtered 24/7 regardless of the student's location. Preinstalled software that cannot be removed or adjusted by the student will remotely route all internet activity through the school's web filter. Websites that are not accessible at school will not be accessible at home. Our web filtering technology is state-of-the-art. However, as with any technology, some students may try to actively circumvent the filter and may be able to access inappropriate content. We rely on a student's commitment to Digital Citizenship to help guide them toward good decision-making and responsible/ethical use of the devices. Additionally, students who actively seek inappropriate content may lose access to their device.

How will access on the device be monitored? Will my instructors know what I am doing on my computer during class?

We will be using tools that would allow a teacher to monitor a student's activity while in class. These devices are intended for educational use only. SCA's faculty and administration fully expect that during school hours, students will limit the use of their tablets to those activities their teachers explicitly authorize. Our goal is for students to learn how to use their computers as academic tools. Our policies will be distributed and signed by students and parents. Our policies will be introduced during their technology training.

Will the school be able to view my online activity at school and away from school?

There should be no expectation of privacy when using SCA issued equipment or SCA's network. While it is not SCA's practice to actively monitor individual online activity, content filtering and firewall rules are in place when using SCA's network and equipment. Online activity is logged and managed by exception.

What if I forget the device at home?

Students will still be responsible for the completion of their classwork without the use of the device. These are the same expectations that would apply if a student forgot a textbook or other class resource. However, determined by the tech support team, there may be loaner devices available.

Am I expected to have my battery charged for class? What do I do if my battery runs out of charge during the school day?

Tablet battery life depends greatly on how the device is used. Students will be trained in strategies to maximize battery life. A typical battery charge on the tablet lasts over 5 hours of use. This should be enough to last the whole day. Students are expected to enter school each day with a full charge on their device battery. Students may borrow chargers from other students but will not have access to other chargers in the school.

Will my textbooks be on my tablet?

Students will continue to have access to textbooks for most classes. Over time, however, the use of traditional textbooks may decrease as most textbooks will be available to students digitally on their device. Future textbook adoptions based on our curriculum review cycle will have an e-book component. Existing textbooks may or may not have e-book versions. However, we will not change existing textbooks for this purpose only.

May I put my own software on this device? May I store personal (not school related) files, videos, music, pictures, or other items on the tablet?

Any non-installable (web-based) games, software, or music that students have legally purchased may be used on the device. However, if you install anything on the device that causes it to stop functioning, it will be wiped and reformatted. If the student-installed software causes problems on the computer or network, this privilege may be taken away.

May I play games on my tablet?

The primary use of the tablet is for educational purposes only.

May I share my tablet with a friend?

No. Students are responsible for their own device. Students should not permit individuals other than SCA personnel and their parent/guardian to access the device. The Student agrees not to use or allow the device to be used for any illegal reasons or other reasons prohibited by SCA Acceptable Use Policy.

Will I be able to keep my device over breaks and during the summer?

Students may keep the device over school holidays and breaks. Students will turn in the device before leaving for summer break to give the IT staff time to reimage the device. Students will be returned the same device at the beginning of the next school year. Students who are taking summer classes may request to keep the device during their summer courses, at the discretion of SCA Administration and Technology Department.

May I keep my tablet when I graduate?

Yes. Students who have had devices since their Freshman year will have the option to purchase the device at the lease buy-out rate.

May someone give a gift directly to the Tech Plan efforts at SCA?

Yes! If you wish to donate to help support our technology initiatives, you may designate your donation as such.

If you have any further questions, please contact High School office. Crudesill@scamail.org

