iPad Tips

In many ways, having a tablet device is no different than having a laptop or desktop computer at home. Cyber safety guidelines apply, no matter the device by which the Internet is accessed. Our goal is to harness the educational power of these technologies and teach students how to use them safely.

Here are a few tips that may be helpful as you think about the iPad, the Internet, and your child.

We recommend establishing the following “habits” with the iPad:

1. Choose a “base” for the iPad — a location you have agreed upon. This should be a public place, not your child’s bedroom. The base is where the iPad lives and is charged nightly. Your child should ask permission to use the iPad and return it to the base, plugging it in each night so that it is ready to go in the morning. Please come to school with your iPad 100% charged so that it can be used for as long as possible at school.

2. Think of the iPad as you would any other school tool. It is there to help students learn more, faster. It is intended for school use, not as a toy or an entertainment device. We recommend that the iPad be used to accomplish homework and then returned to the base you have established.

3. Access to apps. The school has “locked down” students iPads so that only approved applications can be installed. On campus, iPad searches are conducted through the school’s Internet filters. These filters are not in place once the iPad leaves the premises of CA. We suggest parents carefully monitor Internet use at home, and that the iPad be used in a common area of the house for closer observation.

Colorado Academy 1:1 iPad Learning Program

more iPad Tips >>>
4. Make clear your family’s rules and expectations for using iPads, computers, and the Internet. Each family has its own expectations about technology use. Discussing your family’s rules and responsibilities in advance and on an age-appropriate basis is important. These rules can include amounts of time, location(s) of use, types of technology available, amount of supervision, and more.

Additional Suggestions Regarding Healthy and Safe Technology Use:

- Clarify with your children what is private and what is not when it comes to use of available technology. Many parents let children know that electronic communication is not a private act, and that parents may review emails, social media posts, texts and Internet footprints to ensure safety and appropriate use.

- Remind children that emails, texts, and other forms of communication on the Internet replicate face-to-face opportunities to be kind or unkind, inclusive and exclusive. Set clear guidelines regarding electronic communications. Suggested areas for clarity include: 1. politeness, 2. kindness, 3. inclusiveness, 4. timing of communication – few parents appreciate receiving a text message or phone call late in the evening.

- Remind children not to give out personal information (name, age, sex, location, hobbies, school) or other identifying information to someone they do not know personally. Computer names that give away a child’s approximate age, gender, address or other personal information should be avoided.

- Set your expectations for children around access to social media, messaging, and chat rooms. Facebook pages and public posting sites should be carefully monitored, if allowed at all. Public posting sites carry many of the same dangers of exposure, and the decision to allow your child to “post” should be carefully weighed.

- Supervise children, as is age-appropriate. Use your eyes and ears. Help your children come up with a list for spotting inappropriate content. For example: Inappropriate content is something you see or hear that upsets you, makes you feel uncomfortable, scared, embarrassed, is unpleasant, etc.

- Monitor your child’s “friends” list or equivalent. Excluding others can be hurtful. Children sometimes need help in making these decisions at this age. You should recognize every name on the list.

- Remind children not to open or respond to emails or texts from anyone they do not know. Opening anonymous or disguised emails/texts is the most common way that viruses are transmitted; it is also a common way an Internet predator or business harvests information. The same is true of anonymous chain letters. Responding to a chain letter can allow strangers to have access to your child’s email name and address.

- Discuss with your children what they need to do if they encounter inappropriate content. The most common thing to do is to teach children to follow these steps: 1- Escape! Turn the screen off, do not share with friends. 2- Tell! Inform a teacher or the responsible adult. 3- Refuse! Do not participate if others are not following the rules and tell an adult. Contact authorities if you come across something suspicious; your child’s safety comes first.

- Discourage iPad use after a certain hour. When children sleep with their iPads or cell phones, i.e., have access 24-7, it is much more likely that they will be texting at 2:00 a.m. with friends. Checking in the iPad and phone for the evening with their parents and receiving it back again the next morning can be an effective strategy.

- Speak directly with one another to resolve issues involving at-home iPad, cell phone or computer use. While these situations can be complicated, they often represent opportunities for adults to model for their children appropriate ways to handle sticky situations and do the right thing, even when it is difficult, risky, or embarrassing.

- Help children understand the importance and meaning of digital citizenship, that is, the appropriate use of technology. There are numerous resources available, including this guide: http://www.digitalcitizenship.net