Frequently Asked Questions

What is 1:1?
1:1 is a term describing a learning environment where each student has access to their own mobile device in the classroom. The SMS 1:1 initiative helps students and teachers collaborate on learning tasks by using Apple iPads. These mobile devices provide students with valuable educational resources, which are proven to increase achievement and engagement.

Why is SMS undertaking this initiative?
Middle School students are already familiar with technology, and SMS seeks to further the atmosphere of academic excellence with the 1:1 initiative. This initiative allows for innovative teaching methods and the opportunity to fully engage students in the learning process. SMS graduates' academic preparedness will be greatly enhanced for high school learning environments already utilizing 1:1 technology.

What is the cost to families of 1:1?
There is no charge to families for the 1:1 initiative - SMS is providing the 1:1 initiative through funding provided by the PTO, Dad's Club and the Msgr. Meyers Technology Initiative. The only cost that families might incur will be repair/replacement costs if student iPads are damaged, lost or stolen.

What is the implementation plan?
Incoming 6th grade students will receive iPads in the fall of 2015, and each subsequent incoming 6th grade class will receive iPads. Students will keep their iPad for all three years of Middle School and will be given an option to own the iPad, for a nominal fee, upon 8th grade graduation from St Monica.

Will training be provided for students?
Yes, student training will occur during classroom sessions.

Can students take the devices with them to the next grade level?
Yes, students will take their device with them to the next grade level but they will be collected at the end of the year for summer maintenance and then returned to students in the fall. Each student will receive the same iPad that they were previously given.

Will SMS be replacing textbooks with digital content?
SMS is transitioning from sole dependency on textbooks to an environment that allows access to a much greater range of educational materials and experiences. Printed textbooks will still be available, in addition to ebook editions of textbooks.

How much student work will be online?
Online work will vary per class, but iPads are only one tool that will be used in the classroom.

Are students required to participate in 1:1?
Yes, all students will be required to use 1:1 technology during classroom sessions.

Will students be required to bring the iPad to class every day and what happens if my student forgets their iPad and leaves it at home?
Students are expected to bring their fully charged iPads every day to ensure they have the resources necessary for a successful learning experience.

What devices and accessories will students receive?
Each incoming 6th grade student will receive an Apple iPad for school and home use. Each student will receive a charging brick and USB cord for the iPad. Ipads will come encased in a Griffin Survivor iPad cover with stand. The case is a military grade protective case for the device which gives a high level of protection against damage.

Can students use their own personal devices at school?
No, students must use the Apple iPad that is assigned to them.

What if my child's iPad is damaged?
SMS has contracted with a 3rd party repair provider to address damages to student iPads. The school will coordinate all repairs and families will not be responsible for evaluating, delivering or picking up damaged devices. While a student's iPad is being repaired, loaner iPads will be available. Repair or replacement charges will be the responsibility of the family if it is determined that damages resulted from student negligence or misuse.

Why has SMS selected Apple devices?
Apple devices such as the iPad are proven, media-rich creation tools with a track record of large, successful implementations across the United States. The ease of use and ability to create content empowers students to meet the mission, vision and goals of SMS. Apple is committed to the education market through their Apple for Education program, and works closely with schools to maximize educational benefits.

How will the devices be managed?
Devices will be managed utilizing a mobile device management system (MDM). The MDM allows SMS administration to deploy applications and digital textbooks remotely, review usage of applications, and control application usage.

How will SMS manage acceptable use of iPads?
Appropriate use of devices by students and teachers is an expectation by SMS and each student and family must sign the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) before an iPad is issued. The student in whose name the device is issued will be responsible for its acceptable use at all times.

Can my child personalize the iPad case using markers, stickers, paint, etc.? No, iPad cases cannot be personalized.

Does my student need an Apple ID? How do I set it up?
Yes, an Apple ID must be used in order for students to use their school-issued device. The school will provide assistance in establishing Apple IDs during deployment.

What if my child gives his/her Apple ID information to someone?
If this occurs, alert a technology administrator who will take the proper steps to secure the account and content. Students are asked to keep their Apple ID information and password confidential. No matter the age of the student, parents/guardians should know the student's Apple ID information in order to monitor their child's use of the device.

Do families have to pay for applications (apps)?
Paid apps will be purchased by SMS through Apple's Volume Purchasing Program. There are also many free, educational apps available that are appropriate for classroom instruction. Teachers are always happy to recommend free apps that support learning.

Can I remove school apps on my child's iPad?
SMS-purchased apps, such as textbooks and content-related or multimedia apps, may not be removed from the student's iPad.

What if students don't have Internet access at home? iPads can function without Internet using apps and content that has been preloaded. Teachers can load or share instructional materials such as reading assignments, video clips and more for students to use offline. Students can also compose documents and create projects with the preloaded apps on the device. Saving webpages from Safari to the Reading List is a way to 'capture' the page and read later without wireless access. Free Wi-Fi hotspots are also available around the SMS community at various restaurants and businesses.

How does my child take care of their device?
It is imperative to keep the devices clean and in working order. Below are some tips to care for device screens:
• Be cautious about what is placed on the screen that could cause pressure, water and/or heat damage
• Do not place the device between large books or in binders in a backpack
• Clean the screen with a soft, dry cloth. Do not use Windex or harsh chemicals on screens
• Each device comes with a power cord which should be used to charge it each evening at home. The charge should last throughout the school day.

What is SMS doing about security?
SMS already has security in place with a very robust firewall and iPads will have the same security settings as school computers. While the school does everything possible to keep students safe online with the firewall, the students are taught that if anything they access makes them uncomfortable or seems inappropriate, the should hit the back button and report the incident to their teacher.

How can I help my child become a better digital citizen?
Parents can take steps to help their children become better digital citizens, including:

- Do not reveal your full name, telephone number, home address, social security number, credit card number or password(s) to other people
- Remember that online storage is not guaranteed to be private and/or confidential
- If they inadvertently access a website containing obscene, pornographic or otherwise offensive material, notify a teacher or administrator immediately so such sites can be blocked