



iPADS IN THE CLASSROOM (PART 1)

Your principal just walked into your classroom and told you that you are getting iPads for your classroom next month. What now?

There are many important aspects to consider when using iPads in the classroom. Part 1 of this two-part E-Tip considers procedures and processes to think about when using iPads in the classroom.

PHYSICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Everyone knows that children can be clumsy. When handing them an expensive iPad, you will want to make sure that the device is protected from that clumsiness. A good, age-appropriate case is important. For younger students, a rubberized case is better to help them keep their grip on the iPad, while older students may prefer a lighter case with a stand so that they can use it more like a computer. You may also want to consider a screen protector and/or stylus and some microfiber screen cleaning cloths to keep the iPads smudge-free.

iPAD MANAGEMENT:

Anyone who has ever tried to manage a classroom's worth of iPads knows how much of a pain it can be. The devices constantly need updates of all kinds, teachers ask for new apps to be installed, and the devices never have enough room for all the pictures, videos, and other student creations. It can be a challenging and overwhelming process to manage many devices manually.

Fortunately, there are several options for Mobile Device Management (MDM). If you are willing to take on the task yourself, [Apple Configurator 2](#) is a good option, but each time updates are needed, every iPad must be connected to a Mac. An even easier-to-use solution is [Jamf Pro](#), which allows apps, updates, and profiles to be pushed out remotely without anyone having to touch the iPads. With Jamf, new iPads can be set up before they are even unpacked, enabling nearly instant deployment of new devices into classrooms. Jamf also makes it easy to assign device groups. This means that only apps used by each

grade or teacher will be installed on that class's iPads, leaving more space for classroom projects.

RULES AND PROCEDURES:

Just like the rest of your classroom, you should establish rules and procedures for using the iPads. Basic rules include not running with the iPads, always carrying them using two hands, and not leaving them lying on the floor.

It is also important to create and post a routine for wrapping up time with the iPads. This should include a time-bound phrase like "Five more minutes to shut down", a reminder that students should log out of and close apps they were using, and a procedure for returning iPads to their storage location.

At the beginning of the year, you may find it helpful to demonstrate to students the procedure for checking iPads into and out of the cart. As the year goes on, you can train a group of students to oversee this for you. By limiting this to a certain, trained group of students, there is less likelihood that the charging port will break.

It is also important to teach students when and why to use their devices. While students may have the same iPad at home, they need to be reminded that when at school, the students should be working on school related material. It can be helpful to teach students that these are their "work" devices, so they need to be treated just like their teacher's or parent's work devices. While in school, they should not be on the iPads for any reason other than the assignment the teacher has given them.

Sources:

Guhlin, Miguel. "TCEA Responds: Beginner's Guide to Classroom iPads." *TCEA Blog*, TCEA, 29 Aug. 2018, blog.tcea.org/tcea-responds-ipads/.

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