

# MENTONE GIRLS' S.C.

## Year 7-8 iPad Program



### INTRODUCTION

This pack provides information to support parents and students with our Junior School iPad program. This program will enable our incoming students to learn as global citizens using contemporary tools. *All families who enrol at Mentone Girls' S.C are asked to provide an iPad for their daughter in Year 7.* The College is committed to the use of this mobile technology as a companion device across the curriculum. A full explanation of the benefits of using an iPad is described below.

### OVERVIEW

Research shows that a 1-1 student to computer ratio is an effective way to achieve improved educational outcomes and that students are motivated and engaged in learning when they have their own digital device. Technology rich teaching increases student engagement and participation.

With an iPad, students can:

- Learn anywhere, anytime
- Initiate and personalise their own learning
- Instantly access information and resources
- Create media rich presentations
- Submit work online
- Collaborate with others within and beyond M.G.S.C.
- Receive multiple forms of teacher feedback
- Involve their family in their education
- Make communication from home to school quicker and easier

A stimulating and innovative learning environment is required to connect with today's students and equip them for their future in an increasingly technological world.

### WHY IPADS?

Apple has been closely involved with education for the past 30 years, empowering educators and students to teach, learn and collaborate through technology. iPads and iPad resources assist students and teachers to innovate, create and collaborate with ease. The iPad is now a very common tool in households and is extremely intuitive to use.

### THE IPAD IS A VERY VERSITILE PERSONAL DEVICE

- Immediate appeal to students and intuitive to use
- Long battery life between charges - 10 hours.
- Highly portable
- Excellent support from Apple

### MOBILITY, PRODUCTIVITY AND COMMUNITY

iPads are mobile devices. They are designed for productivity on the move and, therefore, are well suited to the increasingly flexible learning spaces in schools. iPads easily connect users. Modern day learning is now a community-based activity.

### eBOOK READER

The iPad is also a versatile eBook reader, allowing textbooks to move onto the iPad. Students in Years 7 – 10 will use the *Jacaranda LearnOn resources* as the core text books. The digital text package includes interactive resources previously unavailable in paper texts, lightens the load in students' school bags and reduces costs for parents.

### IPAD SPECIFICATIONS

- Full-sized iPad with at least a "9.7-inch" (diagonal) sized display. (The iPad Mini is too small for the resources used).
- New iPads - The **iPad Air 2** (32GB) is sufficient. A 32GB iPad has more than enough memory for school use.\*
- Existing (discontinued) iPads – The iPad Air and iPad (4<sup>th</sup> Gen) can be used if families already own these models.
- Purchasing a 128GB iPad Air 2 or an iPad Pro is not necessary for school and would be a parent decision.

\* Students whose iPads run out of memory have generally done so by downloading, at home, large amounts of video, music and photo files or storing numerous iMessages.

### HOW TO PURCHASE THE IPAD?

Parents can choose their preferred supplier. Shopping around can result in discounts and special offers. Possibilities include:

- **Discounted MGSC prices are available through the Apple-MGSC "Family Funded Program".**
  - Apple Retail Stores – *Tell the store staff that your daughter is a student at Mentone Girls' Secondary College.*
  - MGSC Online Apple Store – *Access via the link on the College website at <http://www.mgsc.vic.edu.au/elearning>*
- Purchase from a retail outlet of your choice, e.g. JB Hi-Fi, David Jones, Harvey Norman, Dick Smith, etc.
- Ask about price matching and price beating in retail stores.

## WARRANTIES AND INSURANCE

AppleCare+ protection for iPads provides extended support and hardware coverage, including up to two incidents of accidental damage cover. Details can be found at <https://www.apple.com/au/support/products/ipad.html> . Accidents do happen and broken screens are costly to replace. It is highly recommended that AppleCare+ or insurance is taken out.

## ACCESSORIES

- iPads MUST be used with a protective case. We highly recommend a case that provides a good level of physical protection for the iPad, e.g. with rubberised 'bumper' style corners
- All students MUST use a small satchel type bag to carry their iPad around the College. Getting used to carrying books, pencil cases and iPads around school is new for most Year 7 students and things are easily dropped.
- Screen protectors are optional but do provide extra protection for the iPad.
- Keyboards are optional, though extremely useful. They are best when purchased as part of the iPad case.
- Earphones will be needed at times, such as when using multi-media resources or listening to recorded instruction, feedback, etc. Earphones are already an item on the Year 7 Booklist.
- An iTunes card may also be required in order to purchase any paid apps.

## THE APPS APPROACH OF DELIVERING SOFTWARE TO SUIT EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

There are apps to achieve a huge range of learning and productivity outcomes. We have a Year 7 Apps List and students will also find and use apps that suit their own needs and preferences. The App Store makes the process of adding software to iPads very easy and with minimal cost. Apps are easy to load and simple to maintain.

## WHAT APPS DO I NEED?

Please refer to the Year 7 Apps List on our website at: <http://www.mgsc.vic.edu.au/elearning>

## PURCHASING APPS AND MANAGING iTUNES ACCOUNTS

The iPad and the iTunes account connected to it are owned by parents. Families are responsible for managing the iPad and iTunes account in the way that best suits them. Establishing 'household rules' is essential. It is up to parents whether or not their daughter has access to the password for the iTunes account. **We strongly recommend that parents use Apple's Family Sharing service in order to manage their daughter's app requests.** Family Sharing also facilitates shared calendars and shared photos. Refer to <https://www.apple.com/icloud/family-sharing/> for more information on Family Sharing.

Teachers will provide advance notice if they require students to download apps, even if they are free. If a student does not have access to their iTunes password, they will not be disadvantaged, as all students should only download apps at home.

*Mentone Girls' S.C. strongly recommends that paid apps are purchased using iTunes cards rather than entering bank card or credit card details into the iTunes account. Also, iTunes cards can often be found at discounts, e.g. "20% off", "2 for the price of 1", "Buy 2 get 1 free", etc. thereby providing a discount on any apps purchased. A range of websites also share information on discounts that arise from time to time.*

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media tools can be used in many positive and negative ways. iPads, iPods and iPhones have become key tools in using particular social media sites. *Snapchat, Instagram* and *Kik* apps are very easy for adolescents to setup and use and difficult for parents to monitor. Parents are strongly encouraged to develop 'household rules' for social media apps. Ask your daughter to show you any social media that she is engaged in or which she has asked to use. If using Apple Family Sharing, your daughter can only download apps that you have approved. If personal iTunes accounts are used, parents should check their daughter's iPad for any new apps. ***Use of Virtual Private Network (VPN) connections should not be allowed on students' iPads.***

Remember, parents own the iPad and the iTunes account and adolescent children will not necessarily make the best decisions when using social media. Social media sites are blocked on the College network, unless required educationally.

## ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

Teachers will work through the M.G.S.C. 'Acceptable Use Agreement' with the students at the start of Term 1. Students will then need to review the A.U.A. with parents before signing the agreement.

## FURTHER IPAD INFORMATION

- General iPad information - <http://www.apple.com/au/ipad-air-2/>
- Support and tutorials - <http://www.apple.com/au/support/ipad/>
- Apple Southland workshops - [www.apple.com/au/retail/southland](http://www.apple.com/au/retail/southland)

Refer also to the Mentone Girls' Secondary College website at <http://www.mgsc.vic.edu.au/elearning>

For any other inquiries regarding our iPad program please contact:

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