

Friday, May 25, 2018

Dear Future Angel/Hillman and Family,

Welcome to Joliet Catholic Academy! These are exciting times here at JCA! The addition of the Class of 2022 completes our multi-year process to accomplish our 1:1 Technology Initiative. For the 2018-2019 school year, every JCA student will have a personal laptop device to use both at school and at home.

This means that we can move forward into the future knowing that each JCA student is receiving the best education that we can give. Our incoming students will emerge from JCA in four years with not only a solid academic education, but additional skills and knowledge that will help them stand out from the crowd as they enter higher education and the workforce.

As a Microsoft School, we utilize apps and programs that are both time tested and state of the art. With both cloud-based and local work capabilities, you receive the best of both worlds and a well-rounded technology education that is nearly impossible to find elsewhere in the area.

Our Mission

Staying true to our mission, we seek “to cultivate opportunities for academic excellence,” and we strongly believe that our 1:1 Technology Initiative supports our mission. Our teachers are prepared and excited to work with you using the latest technology available in order to provide students the best education possible. The benefits of going 1:1 are endless, but here are just a few reasons why we chose to do this:

- Increased student-centered learning
- Enhanced student and teacher collaboration
- Increased student engagement, accountability, and creativity

What's Next?

Each freshman student will be required to have a laptop computer (and active stylus) that meets the specifications set forth by the school. We provide these specifications so that we can provide the highest level of security and the most functionality. You have the option to purchase a device through our JCA portal or on your own.

JCA Best Buy Portal

For your convenience, we have created a Best Buy portal through which our JCA families can purchase devices. In this portal, we have listed three devices that we believe would be excellent options for our incoming freshmen students. We have provided three tiers of devices to best meet the needs and financial situations of all our school families. While all are high quality options, each tier up lends increased functionality. Here are a few specifics to help you make your decision.

Option 1- [Lenovo 300e Winbook](#)- \$329.00- 4 GB Ram, 128 GB SSD, 11.6” capacitive touch screen, flip design, active pen included, microSD card reader, 8 hour battery life, includes basic consumer level 1 year warranty

Option 2- [Lenovo ThinkPad Yoga 11e- 2 in 1](#)- \$534.98- 4 GB Ram, 128 GB SSD, 11.6” capacitive touch screen, flip design for use in laptop or tablet mode, active pen included, SD card reader, 11 hour battery life, includes commercial level 1 year warranty (This device offers the valuable option to upgrade to 8GB RAM if you would like.)

Option 3- [Acer Switch Alpha 12- 2 in 1](#)- \$719.00- 8 GB Ram, 256 GB SSD, 12” capacitive touch screen, active pen included, 2K screen resolution, detachable keyboard for use as laptop or tablet, 8 hour battery life, includes 1 year commercial level warranty (This device is the most robust of the three. If you have a student interested in design, engineering, etc., this is an excellent option.)

Directions for how to access the JCA Best Buy Portal are on the reverse side of this letter.

Warranty

Also through the portal, you are given the option to purchase a warranty for the device that you choose. All three devices come with a one-year manufacturer warranty, but it does not cover accidental damage.

We very highly recommend purchasing one of the extended warranties that are offered in the portal.

A student device will be required for the duration of high school, and accidents and issues are likely to occur over the course of four years. Having a warranty in place that is purchased through the portal allows the JCA technology department to address issues and send a device out for repairs without burdening the family.

Bring Your Own Device Option

You are not required to purchase a device through the JCA Best Buy portal. **Your student is welcome to use a device that you already own, or you can purchase a device elsewhere, provided it meets the specifications below.**

Please keep in mind that the devices listed on the JCA Best Buy portal come with the active pen. However, if you buy these devices elsewhere, you may need to purchase the pen separately.

Specifications:

- Capacitive Screen and Stylus Pen
- Windows 10 Based (Preferably Pro) (No Chromebooks, No Macs)
- 64 GB or more of storage
- Minimum of 4 hour battery life
- Laptop must be allowed to join our domain
- Meraki System Manager will be installed
- Laptop can be brought to school every day during the school year (not sharing devices with anyone else)

Providing JCA with the Device

If your son/daughter will be a freshman at JCA for the 2018-19 school year, you are required to drop off the laptop computer on **Monday, July 16th from 9 a.m. -12 p.m. or 5 p.m.- 7 p.m.** at the main office. Please bring the laptop in its original box. Your son/daughter will receive his/her computer back during the Summer Computer Workshop.

Summer Computer Workshop

During an hour-long Summer Computer Workshop, incoming freshmen will receive back their devices which have been installed with all necessary apps and programs to begin the school year. Students will be led through logging in and accessing important apps so that they feel confident starting the school year with the new device.

Please sign your incoming freshman up for one workshop timeslot. **Workshops are offered on Tuesday, August 7th and Thursday, August 9th at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11 a.m.** Workshops will be limited to 30 students, so please sign up early to get your preferred slot.

You can reserve your spot at <https://bit.ly/2K5XL9U> or by scanning this QR code:



To access this entire letter online so that links are active, go to <https://bit.ly/2sdhDjT>

We at JCA are here to partner with you and your child during this exciting initiative. If you have any questions please contact me at LPahl@jca-online.org or 815-741-0500, ext. 213.

Welcome to the JCA family!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura Pahl".

Laura Pahl
Vice Principal of Curriculum and Technology

To Purchase from the JCA Best Buy portal:

To access the portal, go to this website: www.bbfb.com/psf/joliet2018 or scan this QR code:



Please access portal through this year's link. If you have last year's saved, you'll need to replace it with this link.

- If you have not already, you will need to create an account. When you do, you'll need the following registration code: JCASTUDENT
- If you had an account from one of our previous JCA Best Buy portals, you WILL need to create a new account. When you create your new account, you can use the same email address you used for previous accounts, but you will need to create a new username.
- The laptop computer and the "pen" are the only things that are required to be purchased. (Pen is included with all devices on the portal. However, if you purchase the devices elsewhere, they may not include the pen. The required pen would then need to be purchased separately.) Other items are made available on the portal for your convenience.
- All of the devices on the portal come with a one-year manufacturer warranty, but it does not cover accidental damage. On the website, you will have the option to purchase an extended warranty (which will cover up to 4 years), and/or various optional accessories. WE VERY HIGHLY RECOMMEND PURCHASING A WARRANTY.
- Your purchase will be shipped directly to your house with no additional fees for shipping. (Please allow 7-10 business days for delivery)
- If your son/daughter will be a freshman at JCA for the 2018-19 school year, you are required to drop off the laptop computer on **Monday, July 16th, 2018 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. or 5 p.m.- 7 p.m.** at the main office. Please bring the laptop in its original box. Your son/daughter will receive his/her computer back during the Summer Computer Workshop.
- For more information about how to navigate the Best Buy portal [go to the parent user guide at https://bit.ly/2rLgzV5](https://bit.ly/2rLgzV5)