

Monday, June 1, 2020

Dear Future Angel/Hillman and Family,

Welcome to Joliet Catholic Academy! These are exciting times here at JCA! We are incredibly proud of the strides that we have taken in technology integration over the past 5 years. As a fully 1:1 school, every JCA student has 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 contact at CDW or on your own.

Easy Ordering with CDW

For your convenience, we have partnered with Nick Simonetti at CDW. With CDW’s help, we have chosen four devices that we believe would be excellent options for our incoming freshmen students. We have provided four 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- HP ProBook x360 11 G3 - Education Edition – \$468.50

Flip design, Pentium N5000, Win 10 Pro 64-bit, 4 GB RAM, 128 GB SSD, 11.6" touchscreen 1366 x 768 (HD), Stylus Pen included

Option 2- Acer TravelMate Spin B3 – \$528.00

Flip design, Pentium N5030, Win 10 Pro 64-bit, 8 GB RAM, 128 GB SSD, 11.6" touchscreen 1366 x 768 (HD), Stylus Pen included (This tier offers twice the memory as option 1.)

Option 3- Microsoft Surface Pro 7 – \$983.00

Tablet, Core i3, Win 10 Pro 64-bit, 4GB RAM, 128GB SSD, 12.3" touchscreen 2736 x 1824, Stylus Pen and keyboard included (This option's keyboard detaches so it can be used as a tablet. Surfaces have a reputation for being one of the best devices in the industry and works seamlessly with the many Microsoft programs that we utilize daily. It also has incredible inking capability.)

Option 4- Microsoft Surface Pro 7 – \$1,121.00

Tablet, Core i5, Win 10 Pro 64-bit, 8GB RAM, 128GB SSD, 12.3" touchscreen 2736 x 1824, Stylus Pen and keyboard included (This Surface option has 8GB RAM compared to option 3. If you child is interested in graphic design or engineering, this option has the capability to support the programs.)

A flyer with photos of these device options can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/2zQE4Dn>

For convenient ordering, please email Nick Simonetti at nicksim@cdw.com. He will be a wonderful resource to help your family navigate this process and determine the best device to meet your student's needs.

Warranty

Whether purchasing a device with CDW or on your own, you will be given the option to purchase a warranty for the device that you choose. All four devices listed here come with a one-year manufacturer warranty, but it does not cover accidental damage. **We very highly recommend purchasing the extended warranties that are offered through CDW or where you purchase your device.**

To be fully covered for all years of high school, we highly recommend that you have extended warranties that cover accidental damage.

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 CDW allows the JCA technology department to address issues and send a device out for repairs without burdening the family.** If you purchase a device and warranty elsewhere, you will be responsible for sending the device out for repair.

Bring Your Own Device Option

You are not required to purchase one of the devices above or to go through CDW. **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 if you buy these devices elsewhere, you will also need to purchase the appropriate active pen.

Specifications

- Capacitive Touch Screen (not resistive touch screen)
- Active Stylus Pen (must be Active stylus pen, not capacitive) (Active screen and pen are essential for taking legible notes and completing online assignments.)
- Windows 10 Based (Preferably Pro) (No Chromebooks, No Macs)
- 64 GB or more of storage
- Minimum of 6 hour battery life
- Laptop will be imaged by JCA so save any files before turning into the school

- Laptop must be allowed to join our domain
- Meraki System Manager will be installed
- LanSchool classroom management will be installed
- Laptop must be available to be brought to school every day during the school year (not sharing devices with anyone else)
- 8 GB RAM Suggested but not required

Providing JCA with the Device

If your son/daughter will be a freshman at JCA for the 2020-21 school year, you are required to drop off the laptop computer on **Monday, July 27th 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 11th and Wednesday, August 12th at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11 a.m.** Workshops will be limited to 28 students, so please sign up early to get your preferred slot.

Student safety is our utmost concern. We will be adhering to the governor's guidelines and orders, so if we need to divide sessions to reduce numbers, we are prepared to do so. Also, in the event that the workshop needs to be virtual, rather than in person, we will be in touch as the date nears.

You can reserve your spot at <https://signup.com/go/kaFwKKF> or by scanning this QR code:



To access this entire letter online so that links are active, go to <https://bit.ly/3c8A4v1>

To access the CDW computer options flyer go to <https://bit.ly/2zQE4Dn>

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