We are excited to welcome your child to Key next year! We look forward to providing a range of opportunities for your child to develop the skills necessary to be successful in high school and beyond. One of the ways we do this is through the integration of technology.

Why is technology so important at Key?

- We are an IB MYP candidate school. The IB program strives to connect student learning to authentic, real-world experiences. Technology often helps us to make that happen.
- We piloted Google Apps for Education for FCPS here at Key, and our teachers have several years of experience integrating Google Apps.
- The School Board states in Student Achievement Goal 2 that all students in FCPS will “effectively use technology to access, communicate, and apply knowledge, and foster creativity.”

Resources and Access to Technology

- As needed, the school library has some laptops and Mifi devices (portable wireless internet access) available for students to check out and take home.
- Cox’s Connect2Compete program offers low income families home internet access for $9.95 a month.
- The after-school program offers computer lab time. Late buses are available three days a week.
- See Key’s website for more information: www.fcps.edu/KeyMS

Frequently Used Technology

- Google Apps for Education
- Cameras on iPads and BYOD
- QR code readers
- Blackboard, eCART and Horizon

Types of Hardware used at Key

- Netbooks
- Laptops
- iPads
- Desktops
- BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)

Have questions? Contact Key’s School-Based Technology Specialist Elizabeth Hernandez (elizabeth.hernandez@fcps.edu).
What can students expect? How can parents help?

**PASSWORDS:** Students will set up account logins during the first week of school. There will be at least three passwords for students to keep track of—for the computer, Blackboard, and Google Apps for Education. We ask students to record their passwords in a safe place. Ask your child what his or her passwords are, and talk to him or her about the importance of keeping passwords private.

**ONLINE HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:** Teachers frequently assign homework that will need to be completed with the assistance of a computer. Our teachers are very flexible and will provide accommodations as necessary—from giving a paper copy to students without computers to offering computer time after school. Whether an assignment requires a computer or not, we encourage students to start homework on the day it is assigned rather than waiting until the day before it is due to start working. Parents can help by checking student agendas each night to see what homework has been assigned.

**BYOD:** With permission from their parents, many students choose to bring their own devices to school and use them for educational purposes. On rare occasions, devices get misplaced. Several free apps and programs exist to help people locate missing devices, such as Apple’s Find My iPhone/iPad or Android’s Device Manager. Kids and parents are advised to familiarize themselves with how these apps/programs work before bringing a device to school. Additionally, parents should record the device’s serial number before sending it to school. If the device gets lost, a police report can be filed with the serial number. The serial number is then recorded in a database that is used by pawn shops to help identify stolen electronics when thieves try to sell them.

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Teachers, students, and parents are increasingly finding more ways for students to use their own personal devices in the classroom to help students learn.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q: What is the benefit for students who choose to bring their own devices to school? Why not just use what the school provides?**

A. Several benefits exist:

- FCPS offers the same secure high speed Wi-Fi connection with filtered internet content to both school-issued equipment and BYOD while in the school building.
- Students commonly report that they feel more comfortable using their own device because they know how to troubleshoot problems on their own.
- School-issued equipment is not available for students over the summer.
- Students can personalize their learning by customizing web browsers, downloading software and installing helpful educational apps on their own devices.
- Students learn how to use their own devices in ways beyond social networking.
- Students don’t have to share personal devices with each other, so there are fewer germs spread between kids.

**Q: Will my child be at a disadvantage if he or she does not bring a device?**

A: No. When teachers plan activities where students can use their own devices, they understand that it is not possible for every student to bring their own device. Teachers supplement with iPads and/or computers as necessary so all students can participate.

**Q: What guidelines does Key provide for the use of BYOD?**

A: Below are the guidelines for use of BYOD at Key:

- Students may bring laptops, netbooks, eReaders, tablets, smartphones, and iPod touches for instructional use during the day. They may not bring handheld gaming devices.
- Devices may be used at the discretion of the teacher. Students should ask permission before using devices in class.
- Devices are not permitted to be used in locker rooms, bathrooms, the cafeteria, or hallways during class change.
- Students should bring their device to school fully charged.
- Devices should not be left unattended.
- Students must follow the FCPS Acceptable Use Policy for technology.

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Q: I’m thinking about purchasing a device for my child to use at school next year. What should I get?

A: Most of what we do at Key is web-based and does not require any special software. A device with a physical keyboard will provide students with the most functionality. There are many low cost options now available, including Chromebooks and laptops for less than $300. Tablets, eReaders, smartphones and iPod touches are certainly also helpful tools for students to have.

Below is some information about two common computer models at Key. This may be helpful for parents who are shopping and would like to purchase a comparable device.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Dell Latitude 2120 Netbook</th>
<th>Dell Latitude E6430</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating system</td>
<td>Windows 7</td>
<td>Windows 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAM (memory)</td>
<td>2GB</td>
<td>4GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processor</td>
<td>2.0 GHZ Intel Atom</td>
<td>2.66 GHZ Intel core I5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video/Graphics card</td>
<td>Integrated graphics card (sufficient for the average user)</td>
<td>Discrete graphics card (better quality for video games and movies)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Here are some benefits and drawbacks to various types of personal devices:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Can be connected to the Wi-Fi?</th>
<th>Works with Java?</th>
<th>Has a physical keyboard?</th>
<th>Can open and edit Google Docs?</th>
<th>Can open and edit Office documents (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laptop</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, with installed software</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chromebook</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, in Google Docs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tablet (iPad, Windows Surface, Galaxy Tab)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Does not work on Android or Apple devices</td>
<td>Yes, can be purchased separately</td>
<td>Yes, with an app</td>
<td>Yes, with an app</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eReader (Kindle, Nook)</td>
<td>Depends on the model</td>
<td>Depends on the model</td>
<td>Depends on the model</td>
<td>Not easily</td>
<td>Not easily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smartphone</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Some models can; iPhones cannot</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Not easily</td>
<td>Not easily</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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