

Highland Ranch Elementary School
Technological Device Information at the Fourth and Fifth Grade Levels
Frequently Asked Questions
2014-2015

Transforming Teaching and Learning

Today's students will inherit a world that is more digital than the one we live in today. At Highland Ranch, technological devices are being used to help move us towards an environment that personalizes learning and serves as a tool and resource to students in acquiring the Common Core State Standards. We are striving each day to develop students who are self-directed and collaborative, demonstrate discipline-specific expertise, comprehend and think critically, appropriately respond to their context, and back up their opinions with evidence. This demands a much more experiential and interactive learning environment than solely a teacher-driven, passive learning environment.

As we transition to the Common Core State Standards, we are investing time in College Based Learning, a framework that engages students in an educational setting that believes in putting students in the driver's seat, personalizing learning, and helping students succeed in a rapidly changing college and career landscape. You will now see students working to solve complex challenges, justify and explain their thinking, and apply skills in a variety of learning opportunities. We are connecting learning to the content by hanging it on the hooks of what matters to our students – their concerns, their passions, their day to day reality. Students will use their device to read, research and produce assignments that show mastery of standards.

As with any change implemented in the classroom, the One to World program will take time and cooperation from staff, students and parents. As we work to implement One to World, we are creating the list of Frequently Asked Questions. Please send additional questions to Cindy Venolia, Principal (cvenolia@powayusd.com). We will continue to update the FAQ when new policies are developed if needed.

History of One-To-One Devices at Highland Ranch

Six years ago we were one of two schools in our district to pilot a one-to-one program in grades Kindergarten and first grade. This has been a successful model as evidenced by student achievement data and exemplified via a video produced by the Intel Corporation. With the support of our Foundation, we purchased iPads and we began introducing them into our classroom settings.

Why one device per child?

After working with small class sets of iPads at every grade level (TK-5), we found that having an individual device would ensure more opportunities to personalize learning. One of the greatest benefits of individual devices is the ability to differentiate learning to accommodate students at their own unique levels. When individual devices are assigned to each child, their devices will truly be custom fit to their learning level and all students, remedial to advanced, will benefit from differentiated lessons. Our objective is for fourth and fifth grade students to utilize Chrome Books or other similar device in the coming years. The purpose of this particular technology is its compatibility with the GoogleDocs application that is being utilized at school. Our goal would be a seamless transition between school desktops in classrooms, computer labs, common areas, and student supplied devices.

How will devices be used and when?

Technological devices empower teachers to connect and extend the curriculum more than they could have in the past. Students will utilize their device in small and large group instruction as a tool to increase student engagement, personalize learning, and increase academic achievement. Teachers have planned lessons to incorporate the power of the internet and specific software into science, social studies, math and language arts. Ultimately, instructional decisions will be made by teachers, the same teachers who have been using devices in the classroom for the last few years. Having individual

devices will also save time previously spent sharing devices, increase student learning, and further advance individual skills.

We encourage students to bring the device home to allow for extended learning and sharing. There is nothing better than seeing your child's video presentation on animal habitats or other products they produce. This will allow parents to transfer any work, document or precious memories to their home computers before the end of the year.

How much screen time will my children get?

We are committed to having students use a device for no more than 30% of their day.

Why take home the devices and not leave them on campus?

Students take work home now in the form of heavy books, worksheets and notebooks. They can refer back to notes, finish assignments, and show parents what they've learned. The devices allow for an extension of the work in the classroom.

How do I know my students won't be playing games all day?

Student device use in the classroom will be monitored by classroom teachers. Our experience is that students using devices are engaged in their learning and do not stray to something else with the device.

Is now the right time to roll out this plan, while teachers are busy with the Common Core transition?

This is the perfect time to make the change! Our teachers already know what is successful having used the devices in the past. The Common Core transition requires a certain out-of-the-box thinking that the devices will support. Rather than fill in the blank with a correct ruler measurement, children can go outside and find real life objects, document them, measure them, estimate their mass and then put the whole experience into a presentation to share with a classroom across the globe. Technological devices support the implementation of the Common Core and enrich the learning of students.

Are the teachers ready to support this program?

They are ready! Our dedicated staff supports the program. Ongoing research, collaboration, and professional development at school and on their own time are assisting teachers in moving forward.

NUTS AND BOLTS

Document Storage

Students will use a virtual memory space for work which will enable students to access their school work from any internet connected device, including their home computer. We will be using PUSD MyConnect, our district's new secure learning platform, and Dropbox.

Battery Recharging

Students will need to charge their devices on a nightly basis to be prepared for school the next day.

Do I need to have WiFi at home for the device to work?

No. Students can work without WiFi at home by getting what they need from the internet while at school. Students can complete their work offline and then reconnect at school.

Do we need peripheral devices?

Your son or daughter might like to use peripheral devices such as a stylus. While all apps will work with a finger in lieu of a stylus, the stylus is nice for precision. Students will have access to a school-purchased stylus at school. If your child is bringing an iPad to school, it would be very helpful for them to have a docked keyboard. The wireless keyboards are problematic for us at the school site.

Does the school have enough bandwidth to support students using devices at peak times?

Yes.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

How will they be safe from damage?

Devices can be expensive and fragile, but our students have proven in the last few years that they can be responsible for technology. When students are trained and trusted, they often live up to our highest standards. Of course, accidents can happen to the best of us. We encourage parents to utilize a strong protective case such as an Otter Box Defender case being offered by the District at a significant.

How will iPads be safe before school?

Students will take backpacks directly to their classrooms as they arrive on campus.

How will they be safe during school?

Devices will be stored inside the classrooms during the school day. Classrooms will be locked when not occupied.

How will they be safe after school: ESS?

Our ESS coordinators have a plan in place to keep devices safe during ESS hours. Students will check their iPads in to adult staff when they arrive. The iPads will be locked and safe during ESS hours. They will be checked out when children leave ESS.

How will they be safe after school: enrichment classes?

Students may drop off their devices at the office during enrichment classes.

How will they be safe after school: walking home from school?

Children's safety is paramount. This has always been the case, as evidenced by our active parents walking their children to and from school, and our very alert community working together to keep our children safe in the immediate vicinity. Parents should simply continue taking all safety measures they always take: walk your child to school, stay in groups, and stick to populated neighborhood streets.

Internet Filtering and Privacy

Highland Ranch has a secure WiFi network and Lightspeed web filter on campus designed to protect students from inappropriate content. Families may also download the Lightspeed browser for use at home. This will limit student access to the internet in the same way at both home and school.

Additional services may be utilized by families wanting additional control. Mobicip Safe Browser allows those parents who really want to monitor their child's device usage to add services where they can monitor app usage, internet usage and put time limits on internet usage for \$39.99/year

For more information see <http://www.mobicip.com/>

What happens if the device is misused?

It is the student's responsibility to treat the technology and all fellow users with proper care and respect. Poway Unified School District's Internet Safety and Responsibility Use Administrative Procedure 3.39.1 describes students' responsibilities in a digital environment. Students who fail to comply with the Poway Unified School District's Internet Safety and Responsibility Use Agreement will be subject to appropriate consequences. District mandated lessons in Digital Literacy occur for all children in grades TK-5. These lessons focus on cyber bullying, digital responsibility, and internet safety. Lessons are grade appropriate and support the work of educators in promoting digitally literate children. Individual