



Dear Academy Families,

Academy at the Lakes is beginning a transition to a school-managed student device program for 7th–12th Grade students. This program is part of our continued effort to provide students and teachers with a more consistent, secure, and well-supported technology environment.

This program is designed to ensure that students have reliable devices that meet the instructional needs of our classrooms while also allowing the school to provide appropriate support, management, and security. By moving to a standardized device environment, we will be better able to assist students and teachers, reduce compatibility issues, and support responsible technology use.

The **2026–2027 school year** will serve as a phase-in year for the program. During this first year, current students are not required to participate in the program. Beginning in the **2027–2028 school year**, participation will be mandatory and will include the purchase of a MacBook that is issued and managed by the school.

Families who anticipate purchasing a new device in the coming year are encouraged to begin participation early. If you are interested in participating early, please complete the [2026–2027 Device Program Early Participation Election Form](#) by **July 6, 2026**. [Learn more about the Student Device Program here.](#)

For current students who already have a compatible Apple device, there will be a grandfathering option. To qualify, the device must meet the school's minimum specifications of **512GB storage** and **16GB RAM**.

Each student device — whether purchased through the school or enrolled through the grandfathering option — will be enrolled in the school's device management system and connected to a school-issued Apple ID. This allows the school to install required educational apps, apply school settings, assist with troubleshooting, and maintain a secure and consistent learning environment. Because the device will be used for school, students will be expected to use the school-approved app and software environment. Certain apps, extensions, VPNs, games, and other software may be restricted as part of the school's device management program to support instruction, testing, content filtering, security, and device performance.

In most cases, enrollment of an eligible grandfathered device can be completed without removing existing data, but families should back up the device before setup. This grandfathering option is intended to support families during the transition to the new program and will be phased out over time as eligible students graduate or replace existing devices.



We know that technology changes can raise questions, and we want to approach this thoughtfully. The transition year is intended to give families time to plan while also allowing the school to build a strong technology environment.

Thank you for your partnership as we work to strengthen the learning environment for our students.

Sincerely,

Pat Pesch
Chief Financial Officer