



2016-2017 Middle School Device Program

New Family Guide

The Middle School uses iPads as an important teaching and learning tool. Our iPad program provides opportunities to expand and enrich the content of our courses. It gives students experience using technology as preparation for college and career use. It also creates opportunities for greater student ownership, more personalized learning, and more effective communication and collaboration between students and teachers.

To support these goals, students need an iPad that they will bring to class daily. There are many resources designed to help you and your family prepare for a successful first day and year of learning at University Prep. We hope that this guide will help you navigate the information available to you.

Where to Start?

The University Prep website has a section for Middle School Technology (<http://www.universityprep.org/middle-school/technology>). Please take some time to familiarize yourself with this section and discuss it with your family. We have structured our program in a way that we feel is consistent with University Prep's goals and mission: to promote responsibility, to honor individual learning styles and modes, and to give students the tools to be empowered in learning and in the world.

On our website, you'll find the following information:

- Program at a Glance – An overview of our program
- Device Guidelines – Requirements for your student's iPad
- Device Program Policies – School policies relating to our program
- iPad Setup Guide – Step-by-step instructions to connect your students' iPad to our systems
- Schoology for Families – An overview of our course website system
- Suggested Home Use Guidelines – Current families' advice, from their experience

What Is Required?

On the first day of school, students should plan to arrive with their iPad, fully charged for a day's use. Please see the Device Guidelines section of the website for specific iPad and case requirements.

All required software and apps will be remotely installed by University Prep after students connect their devices to our systems. This can be done from home at any point, and we recommend that you do so early in the summer so that your student can explore the apps and be familiar with them before the school year starts. Please see the iPad Setup Guide for instructions on how to connect a new iPad to the

University Prep system. Please note that while you are welcome to do this at any point, we will not begin pushing apps for new students until the summer.

Recommended Steps for Middle School Students and Families

Now

Read the device program information on the website, and discuss what iPad you will use next year. Plan on when you and your family will purchase your iPad in order for your student to be ready for the first day of school.

Over the Summer

Families:

- Read the iPad Setup Guide with your student and help with setup. You may not be able to complete all of the steps until you have your U Prep email address, but you can begin at any point once you've purchased the device.
- Decide how the iPad will be backed up to prevent loss of your student's work. Work with your student to configure and start the backup.

Students:

- Practice using the iPad so that he/she is comfortable using it in class. Use Safari (web browser) and look through the settings. He or she can use the Internet as a resource, or look for drop-in classes at the Apple Store in U Village or your nearest library.

When You Receive Your Student's Email Account Information (mid-summer)

Your student should:

- Add his/her email account to the iPad.
- Complete the iPad Setup Guide at <http://www.universityprep.org/middle-school/technology>.
- Set up his/her calendars by subscribing to University Prep and Schoology.

Here is a piece of advice that parents have found helpful. At the start of the school year, establish with your student a common understanding of when and where the iPad can be used at home, and how much your student can use it for play. Consider the Suggested Home Use Guidelines on our website as suggested from current and past families. We have found that, without such guidelines, some students have difficulty maintaining balance between recreational and school-related iPad use. Students can normally complete iPad-based homework within an hour each night, and the school does not support the idea that students need to spend hours on their iPad at night, which some students may express!

For the First Day of School

Your student should:

- Make sure that the device is in a protective case, charged and ready for the day!

Questions? More Information?

Contact Jeff Tillinghast, Director of Academic Technology, jtillinghast@universityprep.org, 206.832.1160. For technical or account support, contact the U Prep Help Desk, support@universityprep.org.