



**SPRING TECH
NEWSLETTER (2015-2016)**



**THE END OF THE IPAD
PILOT PROGRAM**



**IMPORTANCE OF IPAD
PROTECTION**



IOS 9.3 RELEASE INFO

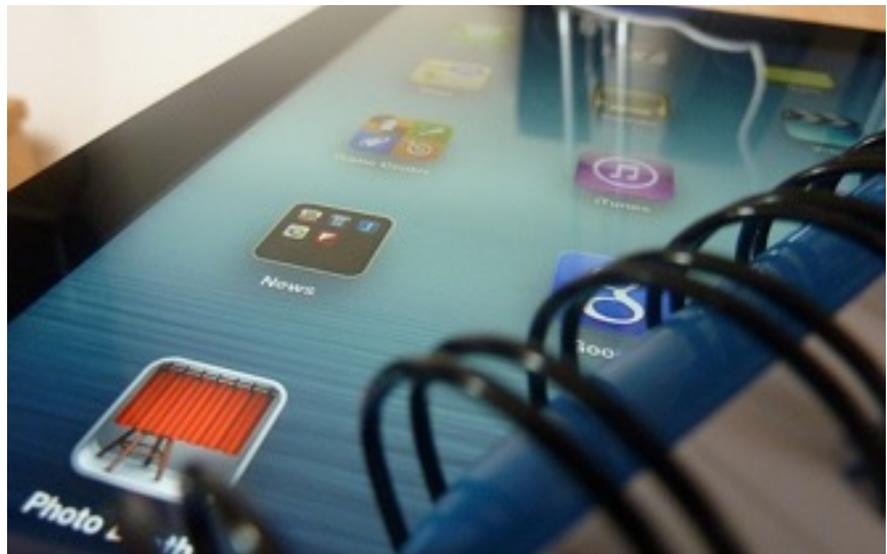
Rams' Tech News

The Catholic Schools of Fairbanks is a 1:1 iPad School for grades 6-12

Spring Tech Newsletter

It is hard to believe that over half of the school year is behind us. How quickly time flies when we are having a great time!!! It has been a tremendous Tech year so far, and it is only going to get better with

some exciting changes Apple has planned in the near future (check out the iOS 9.3 preview at <http://www.apple.com/education/preview/>). With the results of the Pilot Program (outlined below) and the changes coming with iOS 9.3, planning and prep has already commenced for the 16-17 school year. Of note, we will be expanding the 1:1 program to ICS. Stay tuned for more information for the upcoming school year, and don't forget to stop by the Tech Table at Open House on 4 March with questions/comments!



Items of Interest

1. The end of the iPad PILOT program

The end of the 2015-2016 School year also signifies the end of the iPad 1:1 Pilot Program. Up front, I would like to thank the administration, parents, faculty, and students for helping make the Catholic Schools of Fairbanks iPad 1:1 pilot program such a HUGE success. As a result of this program, we are the only complete 1:1 iPad school in the entire state for BOTH private and public schools (according to our Apple reps)!

The iPad pilot program helped us confirm the iPad as our tablet of choice based on its portability, long battery life, extensive app selection, durability (more on that in Paragraph 2 below), and finally, familiarity by students.

Some areas of success for the pilot program include:

1. The implementation of Edmodo (ICS) and iTunesU for publishing assignment information and more.
2. Flexibility of the iPad for student configuration. Students had access to Apple's vast array of apps to customize their device to meet their needs.
3. Our student athletes were able to work on their assignments while traveling with the iPad's Off-Line capabilities.

Some areas for growth:

1. iPad Charging: The iPad has a great battery life (up to 10 hours of sustained use). As a result, students sometimes had difficulty remembering to charge their iPads overnight. This led to student's iPads being unavailable during the day (as they needed to plug in to charge), and also led to several misplaced iPads when students forgot to retrieve them after class/school.
2. Games: Some students had difficulty with games on their iPads. If it became too distracting for the student, the App store was disabled and the games were removed on a case-by-case basis.

We've done a great job capturing these lessons from feedback by faculty, students, and parents. For the rest of the year (and over the summer), we will work on addressing these areas and get set for full implementation in the fall.

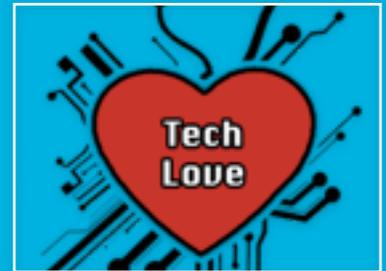
2. Protecting your iPad

One area of weakness identified during the pilot program regarded the importance of a protective cover for the iPad. During the pilot program, 48 iPads were damaged due to screen cracks or bending. Out of these 48 damaged iPads, only 2 of those damaged were in protective cases! While the small form factor of the iPad is one of the reasons we selected the device, this shows the importance of a protective cover to prevent damage. Remember, any damage to the iPad (or missing equipment) will result in charges during turn-in at the end of the year.

3. iOS 9.3 and Apple Support for Education

This year's release of the newest iOS (the iPad's Operating System) is almost upon us. Yes, iOS9 was released for mobile devices in the fall of 2015, along with El Capitan (the Computer Operating System for our Macs). As part of our 1:1 effort, the school is committed to maintaining parity with technology available to consumers. As such, iPad updates are available to students soon after they are released publicly. If you are curious as to what is included in these releases, here is a great link highlighting the changes: <http://www.apple.com/ios/whats-new/>

*Take a look at
what your student
is doing with Tech*



Mrs. Anderson's class using the iPad to work on their letters!



As expected, Mr. Peterson's Computer Application class use their iPads often!

Have an interesting pic of your students using their iPads for great things? Send them to me @mgraycsf@catholic-schools.org

Don't forget to follow me on twitter [@mgraycsf](https://twitter.com/mgraycsf)

