



Mrs. Carolyn A. Lucia  
Director of Education

Dear Fairmont Junior High Families,

Happy Holidays! This time of year brings with it reflections of the past, and a sense of excitement for all of the opportunities we have in front of us in the coming year. At Fairmont, we too reflect on our 60 year tradition of academic excellence, and renew our excitement about all of the opportunities our 21st century learning platform provides. As leaders in academic excellence, Fairmont Private Schools recognizes that students of this generation learn and engage in education differently than students in the past. We are very excited to be offering a technology program in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade that utilizes iPads as a means of enhancing our curriculum and your child's learning. The path to implementing this tool has been very purposeful and well designed. I would like to take a moment to reflect on how this technology program came to be, and our future opportunities.

In 2011, Fairmont Preparatory Academy embarked on a comprehensive review of available technology that could enhance the educational experience of our students. This review led to Fairmont Preparatory Academy's successful Prep TEC Program. As co-supervisor of the Prep TEC Program, I feel it important to share the steps we went through that now put us in a position to seamlessly integrate the program with our junior high students in the 2014-2015 school year:

### **The Prep TEC Program**

We launched the Prep TEC (Technology-Enhanced Curriculum) program to investigate the best technology tools for the classroom, provide training for our faculty, and carefully plan for the use of these tools in the classroom as part of a three-step program. While we do not believe that the iPad is the solution to all education issues, we do believe this is one more tool that allows students to have a richer educational experience.

**Part 1:** Part one of our program involved a pilot initiated during the 2011-2012 school year. Following extensive research, we chose to pilot several different technology tools, including the Kindle, Nook, Samsung Galaxy, and iPad. The result of this pilot was clear: the iPad was the optimal tool for use as an educational supplement in the classroom.

**Part 2:** Part two of our program entailed extensive faculty professional development focused on learning about the iPad and innovative ways to incorporate it in the classroom to enhance student understanding. This training will be ongoing through the coming years. We remain fully convinced that the most important delivery tool for our education is our faculty who are very enthusiastic and ready to welcome this new technology into their classroom in order to engage each student and to give them a 21st century learning experience.

As you may be aware, junior high teachers have already begun extensive training and will be using iPad carts in their classrooms throughout the remainder of the current school year. **Starting with the 2014-2015 school year, junior high students will be required to bring their own iPad devices to school on a daily basis.** At this time, the best iPad available is the new iPad with retina display, dual-core processor, quad-core graphics, and 32GB of memory. The iPad your student brings to class must meet the same 32GB capacity and be at least a second or third generation model. The newest iPad is the iPad Air/iPad 4, so if your family does not already have an iPad we recommend this newest version as it will have the best longevity in terms of relevance and functionality. However, the iPad 2, 3 or mini also work just fine with the applications being used in the classroom so if your family already has one of those iPads there is no need to go purchase a new one.

**We are very pleased to be offering each student the following:**

- **Technical support while on campus and email support while off campus.** Each student will have access to hardware and software support, as well as help for troubleshooting and customization.
- **Multiple training sessions for students and parents.** We will offer an Introduction to Your iPad session at the beginning of the school year, as well as multiple training sessions throughout the year touching on security features, parental controls, using the iPad as an organizational tool with your student, and many more topics.
- **An enhanced classroom experience.** The iPad has been proven to increase student engagement, improve student motivation, and provide the potential to empower and uplift students in their learning.

We are sensitive to concerns about the extra cost that may be associated with purchasing an iPad. It is our firm belief that technological advances in education are no longer considered a luxury, but a necessary component for providing premiere educational opportunities. More and more schools are moving toward mobile devices and eBooks, and as a leader in K-12 education, this program represents one more way in which Fairmont is giving our students the 21st century skills to move forward as leaders on whichever path they choose.

Please rest assured that we will continue to provide information on the technology program in the coming months. As always, I'm happy to answer any additional questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Carolyn A. Lucia  
Director of Education  
[clucia@fairmontschools.com](mailto:clucia@fairmontschools.com)  
[714.765.6300](tel:714.765.6300)