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CAMPUS

SCHOOLS AND YOUTH

Mariners Christian School Goes High-Tech With iPad Program

By NB INDY STAFF

Students, teachers, and parents at Mariners Christian School have a lot to be excited about for the new school year: a new Learning Commons, a redesigned middle school technology lab, several collaborative learning hubs throughout the campus, and this week the launch of a 1:1 iPad program for all students in grades 6 – 8.

This summer, the school's 2,000 square-foot library was transformed into a modern Learning Commons as a result of a generous grant from the Argyros Family Foundation.

The new space features multiple interactive media work centers that provide improved flexibility for students to learn and collaborate. Major upgrades in technology and infrastructure throughout the center, including five large interactive monitors, allow better access to online media and add excitement and relevance for today's digital learners.

In Middle School, a redesigned technology lab features a Tech Hub for students and IT staff to support the more sophisticated of older learners.

The tech lab will be used heavily by



Mariners Christian School students are excited to set up their own iPads and start using at school on a daily basis.

teachers for elective classes such as robotics, game design and technical arts, as well as a growing after-school robotics program. Also, new collaborative learning hubs have been added in several spots throughout the campus to foster an environment of teamwork and idea exploration as well as building community among peers.

This week, all students in grades 6 – 8 received their own iPads, marking the official start of the school's 1:1 iPad Program.

For the past three years, MCS has been increasing its cache of iPads for kindergarten through eighth grade use, with teachers increasingly integrating tablet usage into the daily

teaching and learning.

This year, sixth through eighth grade students are being assigned their own iPad to enhance student ownership and the overall educational experience as they prepare for high school and college.

In addition to a variety of apps and programs available to engage student interest, the iPads will also host a new school-wide Learning Management System called Schoology, which is a one-stop shop for managing homework, assignments, grades, communication, assessments, and learning resources.

The major benefit is for students to increase academic independence and personal responsibility, maximizing their own potential for achievement.

All of these improvements are part of MCS's over-arching strategic plan to maximize digital learning experiences that help students build skills in critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, and citizenship, while remaining committed to its core mission to "build a firm foundation through Christ-centered education," educating and nurturing the whole child.