



# ST. JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Dear St. John Paul II Catholic School Parent,

December 10, 2015

As I'm sure you are aware, the use of technology in the learning process is becoming more and more prevalent. It is woven throughout the experiences of the children each day. We are very proud of the school's position in regards to technology. Our school has been set up for success in the area of technology by having a Technology Fund set aside for the sole use of technology related expenditures. This fund is supported through the technology/registration fee that is paid by families for each student. I would like to share with you some highlights of the technology capabilities we are currently enjoying because of the Technology Fund, along with some proposed uses of future funds.

Currently:

- Expert advice from the professionals in the Managed Services and Technology Integration Departments of Five Star Technologies and our IT Committee with oversight from the School and Parish Finance Committees.
- Teachers each have desk top computers, projectors, and mirroring capabilities
- Grades 1-6 classrooms have I-Boards (Like Smart Boards)
- Lightspeed Rocket Filter for Internet Safety
- Wireless capabilities in both school buildings
- PowerSync Cart with 20 iPads in each school building
- Yearly Microsoft Agreement Fees
- Monthly Fee for Internet Access
- Accelerated Reader
- IXL Subscriptions
- Grades 4-6 have Google Log Ins and Use Google Apps
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Bring Your Own Device (iPad)
  - 6<sup>th</sup> graders authenticate with their own log in
  - BYOD Network and Filter Settings for 6<sup>th</sup> grade devices

New This School Year:

- New Server
- New UPS Battery Back Up
- Changed Website Address and School Email Accounts to "stjohnpaulschool"
- Addition of Acuity Testing to provide Data for Teachers to Analyze to Promote Student Academic Growth
- Technology Integration Services by Five Star Technologies that provide Professional Development to all teachers to help them optimize the use of technology including:
  - Use of "Remind" for Parent Communication
  - Use of Google Apps for Education for classroom management, communication, instruction, assignments, and assessments.
  - Use of Acuity Reports to Make Instructional Decisions
  - Building and Maintaining a Classroom Website (Rollout in January)
  - Using Google Classroom to Communicate, and Share Assignments and Materials (Spring 2016)

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An Indiana Department of Education FOUR STAR SCHOOL  
A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

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## Future Proposals:

- Continued Technology Integration Professional Development for all teachers with Five Star Technologies.
- Continued use of Formative Assessments to produce data to use to make Instructional Decisions
- Additional iPads
- Additional Access Points for increased wireless usage
- Computer Lab Devices: Remove Thin Clients and replace with all new devices such as Desk tops, Chromebooks, or a combination of each

The Registration/Technology Fee has served the school well for many years. Soon it will be time to collect that fee. Registration forms will be sent home in January for the 2016-17 school year. **The Early Registration and Technology Fee is \$175 per student if paid by February 4, 2016. After February 4<sup>th</sup>, the fee is \$200.** (See Student/Parent Handbook p.11.) I hope this information helps you see that the use of funds generated by this fee is being overseen well, and benefiting your child.

As you know from your own family budgets, technology is expensive, but a necessity. Your own family's monthly cell phone, internet, and cable bills can provide you with a frame of reference for the cost meaningful technology for our students and teachers. The technology funds are a great investment in our students' futures!

Thanks,  
Karen Haas  
Principal

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