

## Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish School

1151 William St. • Plymouth, MI 48170

(734) 453-3053 • [info@olgcp parish.net](mailto:info@olgcp parish.net) • [iamolgc.com](http://iamolgc.com)



Dear Parents,

Students in grades K to 8 have a personal school iPad assigned for their use during the academic year. These devices have applications installed based on teacher requests and are used in the school each day. Since we cannot forecast our future regarding COVID and the possible need to move to distance learning at some point during the year I would like to share some information with you so that you are prepared to have your son or daughter using these devices from your home.

Each K-8 student is assigned an Apple 128GB iPad (WiFi model) with an appropriate case to help protect the devices from minor drops. Most students have been assigned 6th generation devices, but some 3rd grade students will have 7th generation devices. Students in grades K-2 have devices in STM DUX cases. Students in grades 3-8 have devices in either Logitech Rugged Combo 2 (for 6th generation iPads) or Logitech Rugged Combo 3 cases (for 7th generation iPads or later). The education price for these iPads is \$399. The cost of the STM case is about \$50 for the education market. The cost of the Logitech case is \$100.

Appendix C of the Parent-Student Handbook contains the school's Technology Acceptable Use Policy including fees that the school will assess for damage to school devices. The cost to repair a damaged iPad screen is \$250 and repair and replacement may take several days. Please set clear rules with your children regarding how you expect them to handle the iPads in your home to avoid damage. We would recommend that students use their assigned school iPads with parent supervision and that the devices be charged while on a hard surface like a kitchen countertop. We do not recommend that students store these devices in their bedrooms.

### iPad Charging

All of the student iPads are charged with an appropriate charging brick and cable. Any Apple charging brick that you may have in your home will work. Many 3rd party chargers (Anker and RAVPower make excellent products) would also work. The typical iPad cable is a USB-A to Lightning port cable. Some more recent charging bricks may have a USB-C port. Those chargers would require a USB-C to Lightning port cable to charge an iPad.

OLGC will not send chargers and cables home with student devices. We are using those cables and chargers at the school, and it is not possible to send them home with the students.

If you need to purchase a charging brick and cable, these items can be found at many local retail stores like Best Buy, Target, mobile phone stores, Apple stores, and many more. They may also be ordered online from these retailers. While many reputable brands are sold on Amazon, we would recommend choosing cables that are marketed as Apple MFi certified. We have found that those cables are far more reliable than non-certified cables and are worth the added cost.

Here is an option to consider when comparing prices:

Anker Elite Dual Port 24W wall charger with Lightning cable bundle (\$19.59 with Amazon Prime)

<https://www.amazon.com/iPhone-Charger-Anker-Lightning-Certified/dp/B0859YSZPT>

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### Content Filtering

Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish School has contracted with **Securly**, an Internet safety company, to try to protect your children from being exposed to content that is not appropriate. The Securly content filtering should occur both at school and at home, and generates email alerts in real time if a student is blocked from viewing a website due to content, enters inappropriate language in a search engine, or if bullying or self-harm keywords are identified. No Internet filter is going to be perfect, so we continue to recommend parent supervision of student device use outside of the school.

The most common sites that we see blocked by Securly are image hosting sites. If a student attempts to visit a site like Flickr (<https://www.flickr.com>) or Pixabay (<https://www.pixabay.com>) they will most likely be blocked from visiting the site. This does not mean that the student has attempted to view inappropriate content, but rather indicates that if the student visits those web pages they may be exposed to inappropriate images that may be found using search terms on those websites. Securly is set to allow Google, Bing, and Yahoo! image searches while enforcing **Safe Search** mode on those sites.

In addition, Securly offers a **SecurlyHome app** for smart phones and a **Parent Portal**. One parent from each family will be connected to the parent portal later this week. That parent will receive an email from Securly to setup an account in the **Securly Parent Portal**. Using the parent portal and the **SecurlyHome** app on a parent device will allow parents to see how students are using their school devices in a weekly email report. Parents should receive alerts if a student is blocked from visiting a website due to content filtering or self-harm triggers. The home app can also be used to pause the Internet on a device in your home and also schedule times when the devices must be offline (e.g., bedtime).

Parents will have access to Securly support staff using the address: [homesupport@securly.com](mailto:homesupport@securly.com).

### Device Care

In response to coronavirus Apple recommends using 70 percent isopropyl alcohol wipes or Clorox Disinfecting Wipes to gently wipe the hard, nonporous surfaces of your Apple product such as the display and case. Don't use bleach, avoid getting moisture in any opening, and don't submerge Apple products in any cleaning agents.

Greg Budde  
Technology Coordinator