



Technology Fee

Dear Mercy Families,

It is our intention to educate and prepare your children to leave Our Lady of Mercy as well rounded and confident students both academically and spiritually. We strongly feel that increasing our technology and using it to enhance our students' educational experiences will better prepare them for high school. In order to provide all of our students with appropriate, consistent and quality technology use, we will institute a Technology Fee beginning in the 2020-2021 school year.

Our world is rapidly changing technologically. Even from a young age, many children seem to instinctively "know" how to use it. We have found, however, that there is a difference in using technology in an educational setting versus using technology for entertainment purposes. There is a wealth of educational technology available, and we feel that the best way to teach using these resources is to have a scaffolded and balanced approach that supports and enhances our curriculum. We would like to teach our students not only the skills to navigate technology but also how to utilize it appropriately in various settings. To be successful in teaching this, we must significantly increase the number of devices on campus in order to provide consistent and quality access. It is our goal to continue to enhance our curriculum with age appropriate technology tools and also to teach our students the critical thinking skills necessary to become good Digital Citizens.

How is this fee to be utilized?

High Speed Internet

This fee will be used to fund high speed internet for the entire campus. All students and teachers here at Our Lady of Mercy utilize the internet daily in some fashion from classroom management with music, video and interactive apps or websites to in depth research and presentations. Having the speeds necessary to support all of our teachers, learners and staff ensures that we will be able to execute lessons and day to day operations efficiently and effectively.

Student iPads, Apps, Software

The technology fee will be used to fund the leasing of all student devices. Through the lease program, we will increase the number of devices on campus giving more consistent access to all of our students. This program will also allow us to refresh our devices routinely so that students will be working with relevant and functional devices. It will also cover the cost of school wide apps and software. In the first year of this initiative, every grade level will see an increase in devices. In the first two years we will focus on growth, and in the third year we will be able to begin refreshing our oldest student iPads. We will eventually enter into a 3-4 year refresh cycle keeping our student devices functional and effective.

Grade Level Range	Ratio	Use
6th-8th Grade	1:1 (Every student will be assigned a device.)	Beginning in middle school, students will be assigned their own iPad equipped with a keyboard and stylus. Students will be able to utilize technology productively and creatively daily.
1st-5th Grade	2:1 (2 students to every 1 device)	In these grade levels, teachers will have a half-class set permanently in their classrooms. Students will continue to utilize iPads daily in centers and small groups. This model allows teachers the flexibility to work with their partner teachers to create a whole class set for lessons when needed.
Pre-K-Kindergarten	4-5 iPads/classroom	These grade levels will introduce students to caring for and navigating devices through a technology center. Students will utilize age appropriate academic apps and even begin with simple, age appropriate technology projects.

For questions, please contact administration or our Technology Coordinator, Jacqueline Bello at jbello@olomschool.org.