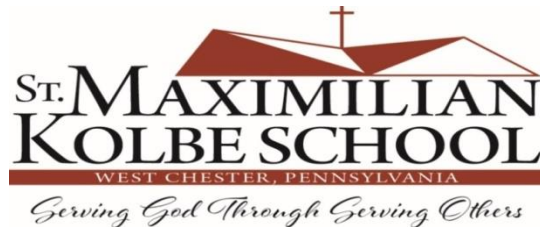


March 30, 2016



Principal's Post

About Teaching and Learning

Digital Devices, The Internet and Our Students

Technology is an important learning tool. But like all tools, students need guidance, support and monitoring to learn to use it well and appropriately. All students in grades 5 to 8 use a school owned iPad. It is essential that parents cooperate with the school to assure that the iPads are used only for school related tasks.

At school, the computer/technology teacher and the fifth to eighth grade classroom teachers will monitor students' iPad use regularly. They will be checking to make sure that the school's Apple ID has not been tampered with or deleted. They will also confirm that *only the apps added by school for school use are downloaded, and that all content on the iPad is related to school work and projects.*

We ask you to support the school's technology policy in word and deed. Here are some ways that the home and school can work together.

- Don't ask students to use their iPad for family events or tasks. Monitor your child's use of the iPad. Go through it regularly. Ask questions about photos, movies, and other materials that you see. Insist that your child work in an open visible space in the house. Make sure that you can see what is on the screen.
- Help your child understand that some information on the internet is not trustworthy or true. The task for parents is to guide their children in discerning what is true and what is valuable, honest and accurate. Engage in frequent open conversations with your children about what they are doing on the iPad, and about the positive and the negative aspects of the Internet.
- Make sure that your child understands that at no time should they engage in conversations with anyone on the Internet. Help them to realize that if they come across something that is inappropriate, that they are to tell you, a teacher or any safe grown up immediately.

Common Sense Media, <https://www.commonsensemedia.org>, is a blog/newsletter that offers sound advice for parents on all types of media. More information regarding Internet safety and school policy is available on our website, school.stmax.org.

In the near future, Mrs. Malseed will be meeting with fourth grade parents to discuss their ideas for maintaining a safe and positive learning environment. If you have an idea or a concern, call school to discuss it. Working together we can make our students capable, judicious and responsible digital citizens.