

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parents of the Class of 2021:

I am excited to announce that we will be piloting a new program with our rising ninth grade class during the 2017-18 school year wherein each ninth grade student will be provided a laptop to engage in collaborative classroom activities, submit assignments electronically, and access curriculum resources online.

As the premier college preparatory institution on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, it is our vision to most effectively prepare students to be successful in college and in the career path of their choice; therefore, I am committed to a comprehensive approach to integrating 21st century technology in our classrooms. We recognize that the skills needed in today's world are ever-changing and include collaboration, innovation, critical thinking, and hands-on learning; thus, capitalizing on the academic excellence component of our mission, we want to continue to ensure that students are among the best prepared when graduating from St. Patrick.

Nearly every university requires students to submit assignments electronically, be able to think critically, and apply their knowledge of concepts taught. Very few college students turn in paper copies of their coursework; instead, students submit assignments, receive feedback from their instructors, and collaborate with classmates all electronically. For the 2017-18 school year, each ninth grade student will be issued a laptop at the beginning of the school year to do just this – and they will keep the device through the remainder of their high school career at St. Patrick. I am having wireless access points installed throughout the school this summer, so students will be able to use the devices in their classrooms. All ninth grade teachers will be trained on the devices and their capabilities to ensure they are used in all classes. Students will also be able to take the devices home to complete homework, collaborate on projects, and study for tests.

Furthermore, there will be no additional cost for parents. Over the next year, I will be evaluating this pilot program with the intent to implement this initiative into our entire high school curriculum for students in ninth through twelfth grades. I am still in the process of working out all of the details, so I gladly welcome your feedback and experience so we can guarantee this to be a most effective program.

As always, I sincerely appreciate your support of St. Patrick and of Catholic education.

In Service to Christ,



Matt Buckley, Principal