BYO iPad Program

Vision: At OGPS, our belief is that meaningful educational technology integration is an essential element to learning. Technology is a tool that is one part of a quality learning process. The iPad is just one of those tools we have added to our 21st Century 'pencil case'.
Our vision is to inspire our students and their families to become confident and safe users of technology during their time at OGPS.
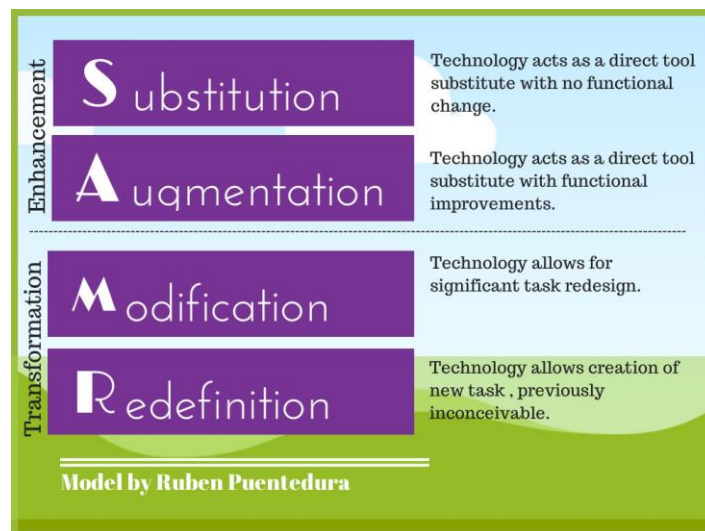
FAQ:

Can I send my child to school with their own iPad?
Yes, any child in any year level at OGPS can bring their own iPad to school.

Why are iPads used as a learning tool in classrooms?
The manner in which teacher's plan and teach across all programs is crucial. The same goes for Digital Technologies and ICT. Staff at OGPS are learning about the SAMR model - a model that outlines our goal to enhance students' learning through the use of digital technologies. Take a look at the graphic below to gain a deeper understanding of the SAMR model.

Why Apple iPads and not other devices?
iPads enable staff to create tasks that enhance the creativity of students and are capable of using multiple apps to create a better product. iPads are also recommended as they work with the iPad management system we have here for the deployment of school apps. That system is called Mosyle. Once connected to Mosyle, students can download the school apps required when instructed by their teacher. This can be done without an Apple ID.

What if I send an Android tablet to school with my child?
Androids cannot connect to the Mosyle system. School required apps (free) will need to be downloaded by the family at home. Androids can connect to the school's WiFi network and can be used at school in the same way iPads can. We do not discourage Androids, but we do prefer iPads.

Will my child need to download apps from the App Store at school and know our family iTunes password?
No. We will never require students to know your family's iTunes password or download apps from the Apple App Store. All school apps will be deployed to students' iPads via Mosyle.
However, if your child brings an Android tablet, you will need to download any free school apps that are required (see previous question).

Is it an expectation that all students have their own iPad from Year 3 onwards?
It is not an expectation that students in Year 3 and above bring their own iPad to school. Our mission is to inspire families so that they see the iPad as a valuable tool for learning and want to send their child to school with an iPad. We do not tell families that their child must bring a device.

What type/model of iPad should I purchase for school?
The base model iPad that is released each year is a good starting point. Eg. iPad 5th Gen (2017), iPad 6th Gen (2018), iPad 7th Gen (2019) and so on.
We do not recommend iPad minis as they do not support the app required for NAPLAN. There is no need to get the Pro models either.

What storage size is required?
32GB and above should be fine. It is expected that students always have memory available on their iPads for school required apps and work.

Is an old iPad from home OK?
This should be fine but it will depend on what operating system it supports. iOS 14 and above should be fine. iPads are currently up to iOS 16. An example of an app that requires the right iOS is the app for NAPLAN. The app requires iOS 14 and above. Most apps (eg. iMovie) will still work fine on an older iPad.
Below is a list of iPad models and their operating systems. To see the name of your model, go to Settings / General / About
https://everyi.com/by-capability/maximum-supported-ios-version-for-ipod-iphone-ipad.html

How will my child use their iPad in the classroom?
The BYO iPad will complement the existing school curriculum by providing appropriate digital learning tools in balance with more traditional learning tools. Students will use their iPad where they serve a purpose, for instance, in research, creating presentations and producing outcomes that suit a particular audience. Students can also publish examples of their learning goals and work via Seesaw in real time so that parents/guardians have a window into their child's learning each day.

How much time will my child spend using the iPad each day?
The iPad becomes a tool amongst many at the disposal of the teacher and the student throughout the day. With any learning experience, the teacher is best placed to decide which tool will be most effective in meeting the intended learning outcome. iPads are not intended to be a replacement or a substitute for any of the more conventional tools teachers and students have at their disposal. All iPad use will be guided and monitored by the teacher in charge.

What do the teachers do with iPads?
All classroom teachers at OGPS have an iPad. Staff participate in training and professional development at regular times throughout the year to upskill themselves in the use of the iPad within the classroom program. Teachers use their iPad at various times during the week to document and post examples to Seesaw of what is happening in your child's classroom.

What are the recommended apps for my child's iPad?
All apps required for school will be downloaded at school via the Mosyle management system.

How is my child's iPad connected to the Internet at school?
Your child's iPad will be connected to the school WiFi network whilst at school (Edustar). The school has an Internet filtering system (a firewall) that stops most inappropriate material reaching the students. Teacher supervision is important in monitoring student usage and behaviour online too. Students can and do occasionally come across inappropriate content. We provide them with strategies to deal with such occasions in a safe and supportive environment. This is all outlined in our yearly ICT Internet Use Agreement that families sign at the beginning of the year on Sentral. Any websites or social media platforms that are inappropriate for school (eg. Tik Tok) are black listed by our school technician. This makes them inaccessible when connected to the school WiFi network. Websites and platforms deemed as safe and necessary for educational use are white listed.

Can my child take their iPad outside at break times?
The devices provide additional support for student learning and therefore students will be supervised as they would be for any learning activity. Students ARE NOT permitted to take their iPad outside at recess or lunchtime. All iPads stay inside the classroom where they are secure. If families would prefer the device to be left at school, we can accommodate that on request.

Will my child have to share their iPad?
No. Students will only use their own personal device. Students may work in pairs or small groups, but they will only ever use their personal iPad.

Will my child be able to install other apps and games?
Yes, however the purchase of all non-school apps, games, music etc. must be made with an Apple ID which requires a password. The owner of the Apple ID must be at least 13 years of age and it is strongly recommended that this is a parent. Hence, parents have control over the Apple ID password and what is installed on the iPad at home.

How will the school regulate student use of the Internet at home?
The school is unable to regulate student internet usage at home. We encourage parents to be aware of what their child is doing on any Internet enabled device and strongly encourage the use of these devices in family areas only (not in private areas such as bedrooms). A great place to find supportive information for parents and families is the eSafety commissioner site and its parents' portal: https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents

Does my child's iPad need to have a case?
Yes. All devices must have a protective case and screen protection. These can be purchased from various outlets. eBay have lots of affordable options for different iPad models.

What about writing, typing and keyboards?
The students will continue to practise their handwriting every day. It is an integral part of our literacy program at OGPS. The Victorian English Curriculum specifically addresses the development of both handwriting skills and keyboarding skills. 'In conjunction with learning to handwrite is the expectation that all students will learn how to create texts using software programs.' We encourage families to send a Bluetooth keyboard with the child's iPad so that they can practise their keyboarding skills when required.
Bluetooth keyboards range in cost from $20 to $50 on eBay and other electronic sellers.

What happens if I choose not to send an iPad with my child to school?
Your child will have access to some shared devices as part of the school's existing technology when they are required to utilise an iPad to support their learning.