MISSION AND VISION

Core Commitments:
1. Respond to what is good for learning, not just doing something new.
2. Thoroughly analyze our needs, our capabilities, our budget.
3. Identify technology that can be managed for the safety of students as much as practical.
4. To educate and prepare the community for the changes that increased access to technology will create

Goals
1. Give students and parents the option to replace many or all textbooks
2. Find tools to enhance and expand teaching and learning
3. Prepare students for technology use in college
4. Give students easy access to information and tools on campus and off
5. Teach students to become active, responsible users of technology rather than passive consumers of content
6. Ensure that there is equal access to technology
7. Ensure that tools and access are secure, efficient and dependable for all users

Responses to Staff Questions and Concerns

1.   Why go 1:1? What is the rationale and motivation behind this?
We believe that with 1:1 access to technology student learning will expand and improve in dramatic and remarkable ways.

But this decision goes deeper than that. A Marist education combines a commitment to the development of faith, care for the individual, and excellence in academics. The scope and role of technology in education, work and play is increasing rapidly and it is clear that our students already spend a significant amount of their lives in a digital world. As a Catholic high school and a caring community we have a responsibility to help our students to navigate that digital world in light of the values and beliefs of our Catholic faith. As a college-preparatory school we also have a responsibility to teach our students how to use technology ethically and effectively in an academic setting. 1:1 is the best way to achieve this.

2. How will 1:1 improve and impact learning?
The primary instructional benefits of 1:1 access are:
- -Increase in the amount of student writing and research;
- -Readily available and reliable tools for learning (on campus and off);
- -Expanded opportunities to create and collaborate with others;
- -Access to creative applications that support and enhance learning;
- -Increased student engagement;
- -Increased AND equal access for all students to information and resources.

Equally significant for us are the first hand experiences we hear from other excellent Catholic schools that have moved in this direction. The additional gains and potential they cite are:
    -Increased collaboration: between students, between staff AND between students and and staff;
    -Increased student accountability for learning and material;
    -Shift in classroom strategies from primarily content delivery to increased inquiry, practice and guidance;
    -Portability of textbooks and tasks;
    -Increase and improvement in communication- teacher to teacher, teacher to student, student to student;
    -Paper reduction.

(These anecdotal conclusions are supported by studies and our own observations of schools with a 1:1 ratio. See technology website for references and citations)

Having a device, however, does not automatically improve learning. Clearly defined objectives, strong leadership, and thorough training of staff, students, and parents, and a thoughtfully planned roll-out are critical factors for successful implementation.

3. What kind of training and guidance will staff be given?
Next year's professional development will focus on staff learning to integrate technology into teaching. Marist teachers need to develop deep understanding, skills and applications so that they feel competent, confident and excited about increasing the role of technology in teaching and learning. These professional development sessions will be comprehensive, frequent, and practical, aimed at sustaining the understanding and use of this technology. These sessions will include flexible opportunities that allow for training and sharing which fits the aptitude and needs of each teacher and department.

4. What plans are there for infrastructure and support?
Reliable infrastructure and technical support are crucial to the success of a 1:1 initiative. The technology committee will work closely to plan for adequate budget and personnel based on review of the programs working in other schools. A spirit of trust and generosity amongst all will be essential as well. There will inevitably be problems and frustrations. We all need to educate ourselves and be willing to wrestle with these problems openly and honestly to succeed at this work.

5. How will we manage student use in and out of the classroom?
Increased distractions in and out of the classroom, access to illicit content, and inappropriate use of social media are all real challenges and concerns which must be addressed.

Appropriate policies and procedures will be developed and refined throughout the process relying on staff input and examples and experience from current schools using 1:1. We will monitor student devices using a robust Mobile Device Management system. We will also work directly with students to teach the ethical and responsible use of technology.

6. Will teachers be required to use technology in their classes?
Marist teachers are exceptional professionals who are committed to helping students learn and prepare for their next steps. The 1:1 program will be a significant change for some teachers and the sincere position of administration, supported by the experience gleaned from other schools, is that there is little advantage gained from mandating use. Good professional development with significant opportunities for staff sharing of successful strategies is valuable and worthwhile. Teachers, as always, will be expected to demonstrate their commitment and practice aimed at doing what is best for students and best for learning.