



Dear Class of 2021 parent,

Welcome to Carondelet High School. We are excited to partner with you and your daughter on this great adventure.

We are pleased to provide you with more information about our new iPad and textbook program.

Explanation of new program:

Carondelet used to have families purchase a device, the corresponding apps, and their textbooks on their own. The old system placed the burden on families and required a considerable initial upfront investment. The new program consists of having incoming freshman pay a one-time tech fee of \$300¹ and a yearly \$350 textbook fee (aligned to DLS). The fees can be rolled into the family's payment plan through Smart Tuition providing interest-free financing and sheltering families from having to incur sizable upfront expenses. A set fee for textbooks further gives families peace of mind for budgeting, knowing that costs for books will be contained² and that they will always be able to roll them into tuition. Bringing the program in-house means families take advantage of the school's ability benefit from economies of scale, allowing us to get some discount on textbooks.

The tech fee charged does not entirely cover the costs of the iPad and apps. The program is subsidized by Carondelet because the iPad device program is an integral part of our digital textbook program and it is important for us to ensure that all students are able to access the learning tools they need. This program further allows families to push off the inevitable need to equip their daughter with a laptop as they get older and enter courses that mirror the college experience.

Program logistics and the family's responsibilities:

The iPad program is subsidized by Carondelet and the device remains the property of the school. Before receiving the device, families will be asked to sign a lease contract that specifies all terms linked to this program. Upon graduation, the device will become the property of your daughter.

We will equip your daughter with a new iPad Air 2 that she will need to bring to Carondelet each day. The iPad provides your daughter with a valuable organizational tool that will give her the ability to leverage many resources in all her classes. Her device will be loaded with digital textbooks and applications.

Part of your lease agreement includes responsibilities to keep the device safe. The devices

¹ See Opt-out Policy at the end of this letter

² Barring multiple AP courses which may incur additional fees

are distributed during our half day summer tech training which is mandatory for all incoming Freshmen. We will release an iPad to your daughter only if she brings an appropriate protective case for the iPad. Please note iPad Air models are different sizes and require the correctly sized case (the school device is an iPad Air 2). Cases should have some shock absorbing qualities and protect corners. The case should also have a cover to protect the screen when device is not being used. ([Otterbox and Maroo provide the essential corner protection and have been popular among our students](#)) Please remember your daughter's iPad will most likely be in a backpack, so choose your case accordingly. Other equipment linked to the iPad that is highly recommended include a quality stylus that facilitates handwriting ([like the Meko stylus available on Amazon](#)), and many students have found that an optional small external keyboard helps with essays and other typed assignments.

Carondelet will pre-load the iPad with apps that will give your daughter the basic academic tools needed for classroom and project based learning. Textbooks will be loaded to the device at the summer tech training, during which students spend time learning how to use the device to support learning as well as setting up and personalizing their new device.

Please note that although this is not a "tech department tool," your daughter will also need a Texas Instruments TI-84 graphing calculator for her mathematics classes (approximate cost \$100). She will use this calculator all 4 years at Carondelet.

Limited financial assistance is available; please send your request to financialaid@carondeleths.org.

If you have questions about the iPad program please feel free to email me. I look forward to an exciting year.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Chaponot, Ph.D.
Director of Academic Technology
echaponot@carondeleths.org

OPTING OUT OF THE PROGRAM

The fact that Carondelet manages the devices in-house is an essential component in our ability to smoothly issue applications and textbooks as well as give us the ability to lock the device during exam times. For this reason, we require that all incoming Freshman have a Carondelet owned device. If you already own a full size iPad Air 2 or later model, with a minimum of 64 GB, you may qualify for the "opt-out" program. The opt-out program requires that you donate your eligible device to Carondelet. You will then receive a \$200 credit voucher on the \$300 Tech Fee. Your daughter will not be issued THIS device. Your donated device will be repurposed and used as one of our loaner, cart, or staff issued devices. Your daughter will be equipped with a standard issue new iPad Air 2 purchased by Carondelet for use in our iPad Program.