



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

GCCISD iPad Distribution to Seniors

Seniors at the Peter E. Hyland Center and Ross S. Sterling High School anxiously awaited their turns this week as the Goose Creek CISD launched its plan to place iPads in the hands of all 12th grade students for use at school as well as at home. At iParent meetings before distribution of the iPad tablets, Steve Koester, director of educational technology, gave students and their parents a brief overview of the initiative, explaining that bond funds had been earmarked for technology.

The goals for the iPad initiative are to support the development of 21st century learners, to help with organizational skills, to prepare students for success in college and the workplace, and to give students educational access and resources for real-world engagement. More than 1200 12th grade students will receive these iPads this month.

Claudia Hidalgo's daughter Alexis Beascochea received an iPad Tuesday evening, October 8, at the Peter E. Hyland Center, and Hidalgo was more than happy to listen to the presentation and sign an iPad Loan Agreement.

"If it's going to improve their education, I'm all for it – anything that's going to help my daughter," Hidalgo said.

Peter E. Hyland Principal Michelle Verdun was excited to see her 12th grade students gain more access to technology through the iPads.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for our students," said Verdun. "They are so fortunate for Goose Creek CISD to provide them with these iPads. This also enables teachers to use technology in numerous ways to enrich instruction."

Ross S. Sterling seniors and their parents turned out in force Thursday evening, October 10, to obtain information and pick up the iPads. RSS senior Jena Petch's mother Millie Doom asked a question or two about the procedure, but she is pleased that the District is giving her daughter and the other students this opportunity.

"I like the idea, especially if it's going to help prepare her for college," said Doom. "Of course, we're always concerned about her taking care of the iPad, but if she treats it like she does her phone, she won't have any problem."

Deployment of the iPads took tremendous organization by the District's Technology Management Systems Department. Weeks ago, Matt Flood, chief technology officer, and his team began to prepare procedures for the deployment, the informative presentation for parents, the Responsible Use Policy and the loan agreement to be signed by students and parents.



Melanie Butler, a senior at Ross S. Sterling High School, assisted by her mother Marie Butler, follows instructions for setting up the iPad she received at the recent iParent Meeting at RSS. The iPad initiative was part of Goose Creek CISD's 2013 Bond to help prepare seniors for college and for the workforce. [View photo gallery photos here.](#)

All iPads were marked for identification purposes. District volunteers were trained for specific jobs, including setup of the iPad, but students were sent home with instruction sheets enumerating several more steps for them to complete. iPads are to be brought to school every day fully-charged.

According to terms of the iPad Loan Agreement, students were issued a 4th Generation iPad with Retina Display and 16 GB of storage, a charger, a charging cord, and an Otterbox case. Parents were advised to supervise use of the iPads at home, making sure their children abide by the Responsible Use Policy, which includes reporting loss or damage of the iPad immediately and returning all equipment upon graduation, expulsion or withdrawal. Fees will be assessed for breakage of any of the equipment, and a police report must be filed by the student and/or parent if they suspect that the iPad has been stolen, damaged or destroyed by another person or lost.

"I'm really thankful to the Board of Trustees for allowing us to have these iPads," said Heber Leiba, as he headed for home to continue setting up his iPad.

Seniors from Robert E. Lee High School and Goose Creek Memorial High School are scheduled to receive their iPads October 15 and October 17, respectively. Makeup sessions will be scheduled for students and parents unable to attend the meetings on the designated dates.

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