

Hawken School 1:1 Program FAQ

Q: What is a 1:1 program?

A: "1:1" is the common nomenclature to describe a program where all students have a computer. The name very directly represents a ratio of computers to students. A 1:1 program allows students to be actively engaged in the learning process by removing barriers to accessibility. Ownership of the device allows teachers to conserve paper, work in real-time with students that are not physically present, and provide opportunities for students to collaborate with others outside their classroom, city, and country. Many schools have 1:1 programs, and there are more entering all the time. Hawken School was the first independent school in the Cleveland area to start a 1:1 program back in 2009.

Q: If my child already owns a laptop, can he or she bring it instead of purchasing a new one through Hawken?

A: Many of the benefits of a 1:1 program would not be possible without standard hardware and software. The use of organizational tools such as OneNote cannot be utilized without standardized computers. Our customized software packages provide students access to important files and documents, from anywhere at any time. Further, BYO ("bring your own") machines can create inequities of experience at Hawken School.

Q: Can I look for a better price on the computers?

A: We work very hard to leverage volume pricing and obtain the best prices we can for our families, and we provide everything to our families at our cost (and even absorb them when possible). Our machines are powerful, selected primarily for the above-explained production advantages, and our total cost includes accidental damage protection, which protects the computer for its useful life. Separate fees cover yearly software, loaner pool access, and administration costs. Our approach allows us to get a student back into the classroom with a fixed machine or loaner computer within minutes which would not be possible with private purchases and standard warranties.

Q: Can iPads or similar tablet devices be used in Hawken's 1:1 program?

A: Ipads are used extensively in our Lower School technology program. In our Middle and Upper School programs, we use what is called a "convertible tablet" and/or a laptop with a tethered tablet device. In both cases, we can capture digital ink (input from a stylus) while retaining all of the robust production features of a laptop. We place a premium on production in grades 6-12. The current generation of slate devices (iPad as the most obvious example) does not serve our educational objectives in grades 6-12. For more information about our technology curriculum, please see the school's curriculum guide [here](#).

Q: Why is the use of a stylus for "digital ink" important?

A: Writing Chinese characters, drawing precise mechanical schematics, creating fine art, solving chemical equations, marking notes over a photo or work of art, making personal comments on a block of text, and annotating a diagram of the features of an organism (among many other activities) are difficult or impossible using one's finger or a standard keyboard and mouse.