

THE NEXT BIG THING



“NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO DO IMMEASURABLY MORE THAN ALL WE ASK OR IMAGINE ACCORDING TO HIS POWER THAT IS AT WORK WITHIN US”. - EPHESIANS 3:20

In the year to come, students and families at CA will experience a journey of sorts to another time and place. The time brings them to a future we could have once only imagined with the introduction of the Apple iPad one-to-one program. The place is a campus that brings old and new together with the plans for our new Anderson Fieldhouse, a part of the Vision 2020 Campaign.

Change of this type at this pace, can be exciting, exhilarating, and for those behind the scenes, sometimes exhausting. But one thing is for sure. Columbia Academy is making its presence known in Maury County and beyond. Our students and graduates are being equipped with the resources and tools they need to become leaders and difference makers in our world.

There's an 'App' for that

Like the ubiquitous tagline states, in today's touchscreen, instant access world, there seems to be an application, or "app," for everything. Both children and adults have come to have limitless expectations for accessing and utilizing information. The Apple iPad is a device that empowers students and educators to tap into this amazing technology.

To recap from an earlier announcement made in 2010, Columbia Academy will be providing every student in grades 7-12 with an Apple iPad (64G, Wi-Fi). Students at both campuses and in grades Jr. K – 6 will also have access to numerous iPads, which will be provided for student use and as instruction tools for teachers. This bold step positioned CA as the first school in Tennessee to offer this revolutionary new model for learning.

“When we started this project in November, we were the 12th largest iPad deployment in history – worldwide,” said Eric Karkau, CA's new Director of Information Technology. “We are still in the top 50. We are absolutely blazing new paths here at Columbia Academy.”

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Karkau is familiar with implementing and managing new technology having come from an IT career in both educational and corporate settings spanning more than 20 years.

Along with Apple corporate trainers, the generous assistance of the technology committee, CA teacher Joel Oswalt and CA student workers, Karkau is part of the team leading the efforts toward iPad implementation in the classrooms at CA. So what does that look like?

For starters, teachers are training on an ongoing basis to learn the capabilities of the iPads and how they will be used to enrich the classroom experience. Teachers will use the devices for in-classroom lessons and presentations, homework assignments, and reading and research, but that’s only the beginning of the benefits. Some other benefits include:

- Lower cost than traditional laptops
- Faster speeds to access information
- Instant availability of eBooks for free or lower cost – also lightening the backpack load of heavy books
- Customized study and review tools for student practice and reinforcement
- Wireless response system allowing teachers to have instant information regarding individual student comprehension
- Learning applications available for preschool age through adults

The decision to incorporate the iPads is an important one in the school’s history, said President Dr. James Thomas. Using this technology, along with expanding the wireless network to all academic buildings on campus, is a strategic decision to become a leader in technology in this area.

“For me, this program is just one step on a journey that will only take us further than we’ve ever been before,” Thomas said. “Although we strive to be not of this world, we live in this world and must understand it to be effective servants.

Our goal is to help our students embrace this technology in an environment where they can be trained to use it responsibly and for good.”

— Emily Lansdell



Do you have The Vision?

Not unlike new technology and tools for learning, a new landscape is transformative to a culture. With the construction of the new Anderson Fieldhouse, currently to begin by the first of 2012, CA will open new doors on its historic campus. This multi-million dollar multi-purpose athletic and meeting facility will be the first physical evidence of the Vision 2020 Campaign.

The campaign began in the fall of 2010 and in doing so raised the needed funds to help finance the new technology initiative. Since then, the focus has been shifted to the next big project – the Anderson Fieldhouse. The new facility will be positioned on the hill behind the Dawg House and will include a new state-of-the-art gymnasium, new home football stands, workout facilities, locker rooms and coaches’ offices, and a multi-purpose meeting facility for CA and the community.

“The goal of the VISION 2020 campaign is to raise \$10 million to strengthen our school and position us for a lasting presence in this community and beyond,” said Dr. James Thomas. “Thanks to the generous support of friends and family of Columbia Academy, an impressive \$8.3 million has been committed. We are looking to our friends, student families and alumni to help raise the remaining \$1.7 million.”

With the financial goal in sight, Thomas is also optimistic about the remainder of Vision 2020 goals, which include much needed improvements to existing facilities. Although the historic 67-acre campus is unique and makes CA a truly special place to educate children, it is also a campus that needs updating in some of the older buildings, Thomas recognized.

“We are committed to bringing together our heritage and history with the most current resources on our campus,” Thomas said. “Over the next three years as we complete this campaign, our families will experience the best technology and tools that today has to offer in an educational setting that is like no other in middle Tennessee. Our leadership is committed to seeing that through.”

To make your tax-deductible gift to the completion of the Vision 2020 Capital Campaign, contact Connie Bedwell at 931-380-8509 or connie.bedwell@cabulldogs.org.