Frequently Asked Questions (Modified from SPPS Website)

**What is Personalized Learning?**

Every child has unique learning needs that can best be met through a more tailored form of instruction called Personalized Learning. There are many ways to personalize the learning experience for a student, such as varying the difficulty of a lesson based on a child’s ability; making a lesson more relevant to a child’s race, background or experience; or integrating technology to allow new approaches to problem-solving.

**What does that have to do with iPads?**

Taking advantage of all the wonderful tools that technology makes available is one way to personalize learning. Steele and Rogers Elementary Schools have chosen to more fully integrate technology using the Apple iPad.  This digital tool appeals to the widest range of learners to help students stay engaged and learn more.

**Why did Steele and Rogers Elementary Schools go with Apple, and not other tablets?**

Some factors that contributed to the decision were the ease of use, durability and repair record, extensive library of applications for educational settings, current prevalence of Apple products in the school system, access to professional development and user support, and Apple's extensive experience with large-scale deployment of devices in multiple districts around the country.

**Will my student be able to access unsafe or inappropriate material online with the iPad?**

Content filters for our Wi-Fi systems will restrict student access to unsafe or inappropriate material when students are using the devices online at school. Families will need to take whatever measures they currently use at home to monitor online content when the iPads are used at home-even though the iPads used at home will be directed towards D11's internet filter server parental supervision is highly recommended.

[Common Sense Media](http://parent-concerns) has numerous helpful resources for families on responsible digital use. The district will also be providing an age-appropriate [Digital Citizenship](http://recommended_cipa_lessons.html) course to all students that includes lessons on online safety We strongly recommend that families use these materials to talk to their students about being responsible online in every situation.

**I am concerned about screen time and games. How will you ensure my student is not distracted at school?**

Technology as a potential distraction is a reality for today’s youth, and for adults too. Using these tools in school gives us the opportunity to teach students responsible use and ways to manage their online time for both learning and leisure. These important self-discipline skills will be valuable when they are unsupervised in the future.

**With students now working with iPads at school, what can families do to manage children's screen time?**

While it is true that some doctors recommend limiting screen time for entertainment purposes, there’s a huge difference between an hour spent playing games and the same amount of time spent learning vocabulary from a smartphone app or composing music online. It's a good practice to pay attention to both quality and quantity.

In today’s 24/7 digital world, learning to balance media usage has become an essential part of growing up. Just as youth learn not to eat too much candy, they must learn how to manage their "media diets." Using iPads in school gives us the opportunity to teach students responsible use and ways to manage their online time for both learning and leisure. These important self-discipline skills will be valuable when they are unsupervised in the future.

A good resource on this topic is [Common Sense Media](http://setting-screen-limits), has other useful information for parents looking for guidance in raising children in the digital age.

**Student Learning**

**What evidence/research do you have that districts that personalize learning with iPads have made a positive impact on student achievement?**

Research concludes there are numerous benefits to implementing a 1:1 learning environment using iPads:

* Increased student engagement
* More authentic learning
* Better connections to learning styles

In our research and communication with other schools and districts, additional educational  
benefits were identified:

* Increased student motivation
* Increased variety of instructional methods
* Improved access to information
* Equal access for all students
* Greater flexibility for mobile learning to occur anytime, anywhere.

Locally, early indications for Minnetonka's pilot showed measurable results with student organization, student achievement (fewer D's and F's), more student collaboration and an increase in the number of formative assessments teachers use to ensure student learning.

Specific scholarly research includes:

* Students report it is easier to do school work and that a computing device helped increase their interest in learning.
  + “Digital Literacies and Learning: Designing a Path Forward.”Friday Institute White Paper Series. March 2011. www.fi.ncsu.edu/whitepapers.
* According to the U.S. Department of Education and recent studies by the National Training and Simulation Association, technology-based instruction can reduce the time students take to reach a learning objective by 30 to 80 percent.
  + “Digital Textbook Playbook.” The Digital Textbook Collaborative. February 1, 2012. transition.fcc.gov/files/Digital\_Textbook\_Playbook.pdf
* Educators at Manor Lakes PK-12 Specialist School in Wyndham Vale, Victoria, Australia, found that the iPads were most effective in prompting their most disconnected students to interact in the classroom.
* In 2010, a study published in the Journal of Technology, Learning and Assessment summarized evidence that participation in the 1:1 computing programs was associated with increased student and teacher technology use, increased student engagement and interest level, and student achievement.
  + Educational Outcomes and Research from 1:1 Computing Settings. 2010. Damian Bebell, Laura O'Dwyer, Journal of Technology, Learning and     Assessment.  Volume 9. No 1.
* iPads, if used effectively, have the potential to enlarge the scope of the content students can learn, while also broadening the range of problems that students can attempt to solve.