

# THE ST. FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE



Our partnership with Apple Computer and SMART Technologies provides St. Francis Xavier School with an immeasurable educational advantage. Importantly, it helps us to attract high caliber teachers who understand the advantages of cutting-edge technology in the classroom and appreciate our commitment to providing our faculty with the best possible resources.

**Apple is the undisputed leader in education.** For decades, Apple has been a key presence at national education forums and conferences. Apple Education team members have served on government advisory boards and communicate with more than a thousand Apple Distinguished Educators who are constantly refining the use of technology in the classroom. Their insights and proven teaching strategies are incorporated into Apple's Professional Development sessions, which directly benefit SFX teachers. Apple has also aligned all faculty workshops with ISTE National Educational Technology Standards and National Staff Development Council guidelines to ensure the best application for a K-8 classroom setting.

**The Apple advantage.** With Apple in the classroom, our educators give students the opportunity to create media-rich projects in addition to traditional reports and papers. Students not only understand their subjects, they learn powerful and dramatic ways to communicate their knowledge and ideas. The Apple pro applications used in our classrooms are in many cases the standards in creative industries such as film, television, audio production, and photography.

Apple is at the core of an emerging direction for teaching and learning. The Mac is now the number one computer in schools and on college campuses. iTunes U has quickly become the largest source of free mobile educational content available. iLife, iWork, and Apple professional applications such as Final Cut and Aperture are the standards for media-intensive projects. The Mac and the iPod combine power, integration, durability, and ease of use that make them integral to learning today. Our students and parents have access to free educational content around the clock with iTunes U — a special section of the iTunes Store devoted to education.

**iLife and iWork boost language and literacy.** With iLife and iWork software, teachers engage students in ways the printed page can't. Teachers can use iLife and iWork applications on the Mac to create customized educational materials for every level of ability. Students complete digital media projects that inspire them both inside and outside the classroom. They sharpen their ability to organize information, think critically, and write creatively. And perhaps most importantly, they learn how to communicate their ideas clearly through the most compelling media — a must-have skill in higher education and beyond.

**Mobile devices reinforce reading fluency and phonics.** With iTouch students can record themselves reading so they can listen, get instant feedback, and self-correct, increasing reading fluency. Teachers can sync these recordings to iTunes on MacBook computers and create digital portfolios of student work and progress. iTouch supports language acquisition, reading fluency, visual representations of math and science concepts, and more.

**Apple provides endless applications for elementary education.** iTunes U allows our K-12 teachers to choose from thousands of free resources that are ready for use as mobile learning assignments. Colleges, universities, PBS stations, museums, and other cultural institutions on iTunes U have created content especially for K-12 students. Hundreds of programs, documentaries, and exhibit tours are added all the time, keeping our classes far more up to date than any textbook ever could. Through the iMac, our faculty has access to digital curricula and professional development podcasts, both from state departments of education and from university education programs. This translates to new ideas and more dynamic teaching capabilities.

**SMART Boards promote a dynamic learning environment.** SMART Board interactive white boards are installed in each classroom in Kindergarten through 8th grade. Our faculty finds that this unique tool helps them to deliver content in completely new ways, facilitating the comprehension of concepts and the overall understanding of material on the part of their students. SMART provides tremendous support to our teachers in the form of resources and templates organized by subject matter and grade. SMART Exchange provides access to shared lesson plans and educational resources provided by teachers across the nation. Students are engaged by learning through interactive games, the use of colorful graphics, and access to web-based tools through these boards.

Through the application of Apple and SMART Board tools, we are ensuring that students at every grade level have access to some of the most sophisticated technology available in an elementary educational setting. Our faculty benefits from dedicated training to ensure that we are able to fully harness the resources of our computer, iPad and interactive whiteboard resources within each and every classroom. St. Francis Xavier School is grateful to the dedicated families who have made these incredible computing resources available to our faculty and students.