

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

What does the Education Technology Department do and what does the fee pay for?

The role of the Education Technology Department is to provide equipment, guidelines and standards for school software, hardware, connectivity, security, safety, technical support and training for staff and students. The goal behind the technology initiative is to provide all diocesan schools with access to the same standardized technology and tools, rather than implementing programs and technologies that vary from one school to another. That's no small undertaking, as the initiative currently works to support and supply more than 8,600 users throughout 32 Catholic schools in the Lincoln Diocese with desktop and laptop computers, servers, SMART Boards, and iPads and other tablet computers. Specifically, the department is dedicated to these important areas:

1. **Training & Curriculum Integration** – More than 30 training sessions are offered to teachers throughout the school year and during the summer, helping teachers incorporate technology into the curriculum. There are two certified teachers, dedicated to staff training, available for on-site workshops. Schools have access to a school/student information system and electronic grade book software (PowerSchool), including implementation and support. In addition, new technologies are thoroughly vetted for educational impact before they are thoughtfully implemented into the local school curriculum.
2. **Internet Security & Child Protection** – The security of our students and staff is a priority. The Diocesan Wide Area Network (WAN) includes a firewall, anti-virus and spam protection and web content filtering as mandated by the Children's Internet Protection Act requirements (CIPA).
3. **Hardware** – Each school has at least one computer lab complete with workstations, Microsoft Office and all necessary client access licenses (some schools may receive iPad devices in lieu of lab computers) and electronic whiteboards. Teachers have their own computer, laptop or tablet for use in the classroom. Other hardware includes projectors, SMART boards, laser printers and iPads (carts, Apple TV, iPad).
4. **Software** – All schools are provided with Microsoft Windows, including necessary client access licenses, Internet connection with E-mail service and World Wide Web access.
5. **24-7 Technology Support & Maintenance** – All schools receive ongoing technical support and training in the effective use of hardware and software and around-the-clock support if technical problems occur.

The Education & Technology Fee will pay for: hardware, servers, tablets, lab computers and monitors, staff desktop upgrades, projectors, SMART boards, laser printers, iPads(carts, Apple TV), school software, network security, telecommunications, training and reference materials.

How will the Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund help?

For families that apply and qualify for the Good Shepherd Scholarship based on financial need, the Education & Technology Office Fee would be added to the scholarship. Families will see a "scholarship" for the fee on their tuition statement.

Is the Technology Fee covered for the Family Tuition Cap Scholarship?

No, the Family Tuition Cap Scholarship does not include an additional scholarship for the technology fee. Families will be charged the technology fee for all students in grades K-12.