



PLAINEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
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Edward A. Salina, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parent(s)

We are excited to announce the continuation of our iPad instructional program in the Plainedge School District. Students and teachers in grades 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 will be able to harness the power of the iPad to improve instructional programming and educational outcomes aligned with the new Common Core standards.

In grades 4 and 5, eSpark Learning will provide the foundation for our new program. eSpark Learning uses iPad technology to provide students with closely monitored individualized learning, culled directly from standardized test data (NWEA) to diagnose a student's individual learning needs in ELA and Mathematics. By creating personalized learning plans using highly interactive and academically rigorous apps and videos, eSpark provides an engaging and focused learning model.



When students log into the eSpark app they are guided through a series of quests – each aligned to a Common Core standard. After learning the new concept via video, students dive into third party apps that help them practice and reinforce the concept. Students continue to complete challenges and assessments including reflection and re-teaching activities. (For more information about eSpark's effectiveness in the classroom, informational videos, teacher testimonials, and case studies please visit:



<http://esparklearning.com/>)

Our program goes far beyond the use of one single program. Now in the second year of implementation, teachers have been able to implement a variety of applications in order to expand educational opportunities for children. As many of these apps require audio, we ask that you send your child in with a personal set of ear buds that can be used with the iPad. This ensures that your child will be prepared to use the iPad to its fullest extent, and promotes personal hygiene as well.

Included with this letter is our **Plainedge School District iPad Handbook 2016-2017**, which contains important information about the iPad, as well as our *Loan and Use Agreement*, which must be signed and returned to the school by September 12th (please have your child return the signed form to his or her classroom teacher in grades 4 and 5 or period 1 teacher in grades 6, 7, and 8). We have also included a *Frequently Asked Questions* document about the initiative as well as an invitation letter to our evening parent meeting on the iPad Initiative later this month.

We thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions related to this initiative please do not hesitate to contact us at Central Office, or your building principal.

Edward A. Salina, Jr. Ed.D.
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