

May 10, 2012

Dear Parents of Students in Grades 5–7 (Rising 6–8 Graders):

Lexington County School District One has some exciting things planned for middle schools next year as we move forward with our *Schools of the Future — Now!* initiative. Next year the LexLearns part of the middle school experience will include world language as part of the core curriculum and personal mobile computing devices for teachers and students.

**So what do we mean when we say middle school students will now have world language as part of their core curriculum?**

We mean that each year students will now take classes in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies and world language. That world language class will last the same amount of time as those other core courses. Of course, students will still have the opportunity to take two exploratory or fine arts classes, too.

The school day will look a little different than it does now. Students may not take every class every day, but the amount of time devoted to each class will be the same over the course of the semester. Each school will have a set schedule they developed. This way we can ensure that our students get the time they need in their core classes and that we meet each school's individual needs.

**This year Lexington County School District One's personal mobile computing initiative in our high schools successfully provided students with the 21st century tools they need to support their learning. In fact, so successfully, that we have decided to expand it.**

Next year teachers and students in our middle schools will begin using personal mobile computing devices. The district currently uses iPads at the high schools. We feel strongly, however, that our personal mobile computing initiative is not about the tool used but about what a personal mobile computing device enables our students to do. We will teach our students to be responsible digital citizens as we emphasize digital literacy, safety and cyberbullying prevention.

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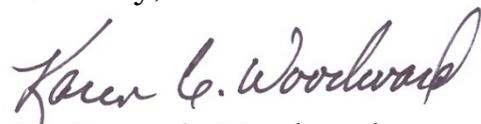
We believe in providing students with the 21st century tools needed to support their learning and to prepare them for higher education opportunities and careers. With these devices, students will acquire the digital competence they need for our increasingly electronic- and technology-driven world. The devices will give students access to the most current information available through the Internet and to teacher/school resources and student information 24 hours a day, seven days a week during the school year.

Students will be able to complete and turn in assignments, homework, projects or research electronically via their iPads. Interactive applications will allow them to improve their reading fluency, build mathematics skills or create their own study cards.

You can see why we say that we are excited about providing our students with 21st century learning experiences to support the middle school experience for our students. We know that you are going to have questions as we move forward with these initiatives. Don't worry. If you haven't already, you will have opportunities to attend parent meetings where you can learn about the world language in the core initiative in more depth. And, at the beginning of the school year, you and your student will attend an orientation session at your student's middle school about the personal mobile computing initiative.

As we implement these new initiatives, we know that we will run into glitches along the way. Please let us know your questions by emailing [communications@lexington1.net](mailto:communications@lexington1.net). Thank you for your continued support of your student and of our schools. We are looking forward to a wonderful 2012-2013 school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen C. Woodward".

Dr. Karen C. Woodward  
Superintendent