

Welcome to Houston Academy!

We are happy you are here. As you know, we have a 1:1 program in which each student receives a MacBook to use while enrolled at Houston Academy.

New sixth through twelfth grade students need to meet on Thursday, August 7, from 1:30 to 3:00, to receive their laptops and attend a short training session. The location will be announced during the New Student Orientation that morning.

In order to receive a MacBook, each student must bring the following items to that meeting:

- 1) **A messenger-type computer bag with a shoulder strap.** The only requirements are that it is a padded, computer bag that fits the computer well and has a shoulder strap. It cannot, however, be a messenger or tote bag; it must be designed to be a computer bag. The laptops are 13" MacBook Pros with a regular display, and the dimensions are 0.95" (height), 12.78" (width), and 8.94" (depth.) **A backpack, even with a padded area for a computer, will not meet this requirement.** It must be a separate bag, just for transporting the computer, with a shoulder strap. These can be purchased from Wal-Mart, Best Buy, Target, Kmart, Office Depot, Office Max, Sam's or many online companies. I must approve these bags, so please call with any questions.
- 2) **An ID tag** with the student's name, address, and phone number on one side and the school's name, address (901 Buena Vista Drive, 36303), and phone number (334-794-4106) on the other. Have the side with the student's information visible.
- 3) **Ear buds to be used during the school year.** These must stay in the computer bag, so they are always available for use during the school day.
- 4) **A USB stick drive of any size.**
- 5) **The Laptop Contract signed by both the student and the parent.**
- 6) **An Apple ID or the email address and password to use in creating one. (See below.)**

To aid in trying to recover the laptop if it is stolen, we are turning on Find my MacBook, which requires the student to have the iCloud set up on the MacBook with his/her Apple ID. If the student doesn't have an Apple ID, we will help him/her set one up. If your child is not yet 13 years old, we will need you, the parent, to set up an Apple ID in their name, but with your birthdate. You will own and manage the Apple ID until they reach 13 years of age. At that time, it will be up to you as to whether you want to turn it over to them to use for iTunes, etc. The Apple ID is actually an email address, so again, you need to set up an email account that you will own and manage until they reach 13. They must know this email address and password or know their Apple ID and password when they come to the meeting.

Please call (671-8892) or email (woodcockm@houstonacademy.com) with questions.

Again, welcome to Houston Academy. We are glad you are here.

Melanie Woodcock
Director of Technology