



PALO ALTO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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Kimberly Diorio
Principal

May 17, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I'm writing with some exciting news! You may recall last year, our school undertook a [Western Association of Schools and Colleges \(WASC\) self-study](#) and developed a school-wide action plan to direct our work over the next five years. As part of our WASC work, we are pleased to announce that in the fall of 2016, **all students in grades 10 and 11** will be part of a district initiative: [The Future Ready Learning Program](#).

This program is intended to support Paly's WASC goal #2: Research-based Instructional Practice to support all students, especially our historically underrepresented (HUR) students; and WASC goal #3: Innovative School Culture that promotes creativity, empathy and global competencies. Next year's sophomores and juniors can expect to be engaged in a classroom environment that supports the use of technology for academic purposes on a daily basis. Teachers will continue to align curriculum and instruction to provide students with more authentic projects, accurate and timely feedback, and opportunities to expand their learning beyond the classroom walls. As many of our teachers will attest, we've come to appreciate that students with access to a mobile device, such as a Chromebook or laptop, outside the classroom with high connectivity, have improved opportunities to make learning more personalized, authentic, and meaningful. The *Future Ready Learning Program* will ensure that all students in these courses have equitable access to technology for academic purposes. It is our hope that this program will help us meet our WASC goals, while providing students the ability to use technology in a responsible, efficient, and effective way.

As part of this initiative, Paly is able to loan your student a Chromebook for the upcoming school year. Alternatively, students can choose to use their personal laptop or Chromebook. All students enrolled in grades 10 and 11 will need to have a laptop or Chromebook with them at school on a daily basis. We hope to expand the program to all grade levels in the 2017-2018 school year.

As we begin preparations for the 2016-2017 school year, you can expect to receive additional communication and updates from our tech team regarding our work and plans in this area. We anticipate you will have questions, and we will do our best to keep you informed. In the meantime, for more information about our *Future Ready Learning Program*, please go to our website at <https://www.pausd.org/future-ready-learning-framework>.

As always, we thank you for your partnership and ongoing support. Go Vikings!

Sincerely,

Kim Diorio
Principal

Adam Paulson
Assistant Principal of Teaching and Learning