

Editorial

Restrictions, iPads lack productive reinforcement

Despite proactive measures to deter social media, students still use devices for games. Restrictions do not stop inappropriate usage of iPads.

Last year, the introduction of the iPads brought an era of games, SnapChat, Twitter and a plethora of distractions. While many apps and the internet at one's fingertips proved useful, the diversions hurt student performance and teacher authority. This year, the constant use of the iPads seems to have died down slightly, but along with this, classroom use of iPads seems to as well.

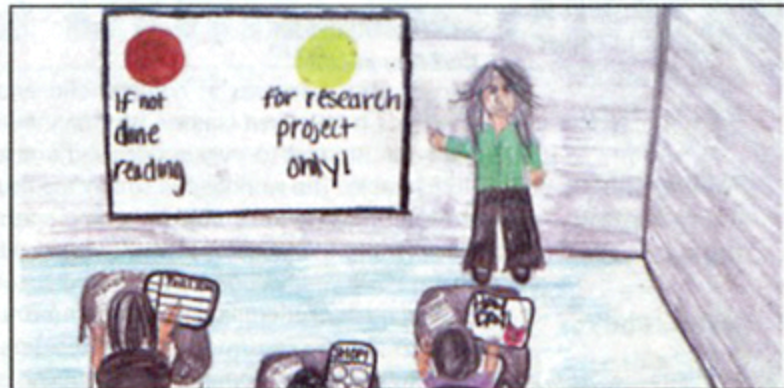
Our Stance

The constant inappropriate use of the iPads seems to have died down slightly, but along with this, classroom use of the iPads seems to as well.

Firstly, the technology is not working how it should, messing up lesson plans and consuming too much class time. Teachers appear to be burdened to incorporate the iPad into classroom lesson plans and some teachers have a policy of no iPad use at all in their classroom. Others check to make sure they are under a desk and the first thing some teachers greet the class with is a warning to put them away.

"I have them put their iPads under their desks because they need to learn that there are times for them to have the iPads out and use them, and they need to

learn responsibility with their iPads. Sometimes when they have them on their desk they try to sneak them out," English teacher Adam Price said. The amount of money spent on this technology doesn't seem to even out, and some may argue that the multitudes of money invested in iPad's would be better invested elsewhere. If students needed to be given technology at all, money should have been put toward laptops. Laptops could mean less access to games and students would be able



to quickly write essays and other papers. Whereas the iPad is not good for essays or papers because there is not a keyboard and compatibility from Apple to Microsoft programs is a hassle. Though there is a touch screen keyboard, it does not allow quick typing and is an added hassle.

This year, to block distractions, heavy filters have been put in place on the iPads. But instead of being helpful, the filters block many sites that teachers may have wanted to use for helpful information. Even Canvas, the new app to help teachers give assignments and quizzes, provides ways for students to cheat. By clicking on a word in a quiz, Canvas will define the word for the student, therefore ensuring the student may not need to know the material to pass. Other features meant to help students and teachers are not functioning as well, such as student emails.

However, with all this said, some features of the iPad are likely taken for granted. The iPad is extremely useful for the calendar, notes, Safari and other apps like "The Constitution." The only issue with these apps being the most useful is that they are easily replaceable with paper. The apps are simply a convenience, not worth the large investment.

After the second year of hastily giving students iPads, the administration has only handed out social media devices that deter students from class and cause frustration to teachers because they have not been properly trained and what they have been trained to use often doesn't work. Therefore, the iPads are not useful for what they were intended and should be taken away until proper policies and programming can be instituted.