

Press Release

Apple Distinguished Program

November, 19, 2013 — The Upper School at The First Academy is pleased to announce that its iPad 1:1 Program has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished Program for 2013–2015. The school has been lauded for its innovative integrations in the classroom, flexible learning environment, and correlation to improved student learning gains on standardized and AP tests scores.

“The administration and faculty at The First Academy have shown that they exhibit the five best practices of an Apple Distinguished School: visionary leadership, innovative learning and teaching; ongoing professional learning, compelling evidence of success, and a flexible learning environment,” wrote Stephanie Carullo, Apple's Vice President of Education, in the award notification letter.

The First Academy's Director of Technology Matt Eggert led the school's application process, producing and submitting an iBook detailing the school's technology story. This book can be found on the schools website for review. “The most compelling item we found as the school continued this journey towards becoming an Apple 1:1 Program was the conversation was not focused on the devices and technology anymore but rather on how we are changing the landscape of the learning environment and improving engagement and collaboration of the students and faculty.”

The selection of The First Academy as an Apple Distinguished Program highlights our success as an innovative and compelling learning environment that engages students and provides tangible evidence of academic accomplishment. The First Academy has set its goals on extending this program to the entire school K4-12 in the next two years.

For the past 30 years, Apple, Inc. has partnered with educators to explore and enhance the teaching and learning experience and to provide a learning environment that “supports the way students live and how they want to learn.”

“We applaud schools such as The First Academy who are able to advance this mission, ensuring that all students are prepared for future success in work and life,” Carullo concluded.

The First Academy is a Christ-centered, college-preparatory school serving over 1,100 Central Florida students from K4 through 12th grade. Since its opening in 1987, TFA has developed academic, fine arts, and athletic programs to elevate its students to the highest levels of achievement and form the strength of character that leads young men and women to serve others in their own community and around the globe.



"Recognized by Apple as a distinguished school for innovation, leadership, and educational excellence."