

Technology Corner Newsletter



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Community Prep switching to iWork

Apple released the 2008 version of its productivity suite about a year ago. Comprising of Pages, Numbers and Keynote, iWork can handle all our school's documentation needs efficiently and without the bugs and crashes.

Community Prep has used the 2004 version of Microsoft Office for a number of years. The software has never been very stable and very often students



and staff have lost documents due to system crashes. When Apple offered to provide all school computers with iWork '08 for \$249, one-time, we took a hard look at this

software. The computer lab staff has used iWork application for almost a year now and have had very encouraging test results. Most importantly, iWork has not crashed on any computer yet, and has even managed to rescue a number of Microsoft Office documents.

Compatibility

Many of the people and computers around you will likely not use iWorks to write their papers. Perhaps your home computer is a PC and you have Microsoft Office or WordPerfect? No need to worry. iWorks applications have import/export features for Word and Excel, and standard RTF export. Since not all people have Microsoft Office at



home, using RTF as a standard to bring documents from one computer to another is an elegant solution.

The switch to iWork will not be too hard. Most of the features are the same for any word processor, and only the location of some of the controls may be different. The Community Prep teachers and staff will continue to use Microsoft Office as an option, and the Computer Lab has some nifty applications with large number of import/export options, so you will never be stuck if your document you brought from home doesn't want to display in iWorks.



Want to use iWorks too? You'll need a Mac, OSX 10.4 or later. You can download the applications for \$79 on the Apple website.

Don't want to spend the money? Go freeware! NeoOffice is the Mac version of the free OpenOffice. NeoOffice is only a bit slower than iWorks, has a nice interface and lots of features. Download for free at:
<http://www.neooffice.org/neojava/en/download.php>