



Back-to-School Checklist



Introduction

Those who plan ahead sleep easier.

Getting ready for the first day of school doesn't have to be a mad summer scramble.

Treating most device preparation tasks as an ongoing part of your Apple device management throughout the year sets you up for smooth sailing.



In this guide, we will breakdown the follow steps into checklist-style format:



Planning and assessment



Device collection and initial cleanup



Environment Rebuild and preparation



Testing everything



Device imaging and deployment



The first week of school



Stabilization and optimization



Planning and assessment

See exactly which devices will return this year and which need replacement.

Audit inventory

- ☐ Identify devices that haven't checked for 30–90 days
- ☐ Review Smart Groups and policies

Confirm integration health

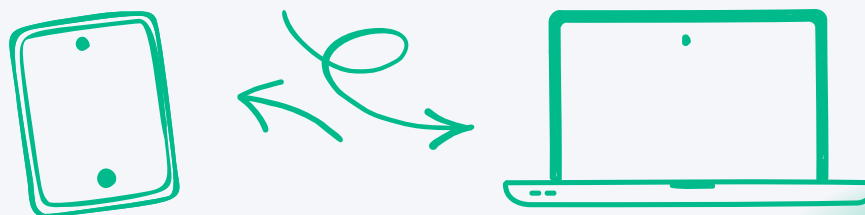
- ☐ SIS sync
- ☐ Directory services
- ☐ Document device lifecycle plans (reuse, retire, replace)

Review integrations

- ☐ Jamf Connect or other authentication and access solution
- ☐ Active Directory

Prepare reports

- ☐ Graduating students
- ☐ Departing staff
- ☐ Devices to wipe





Device collection and initial cleanup

Clean up your MDM so that only active devices remain in management.

Device cleanup

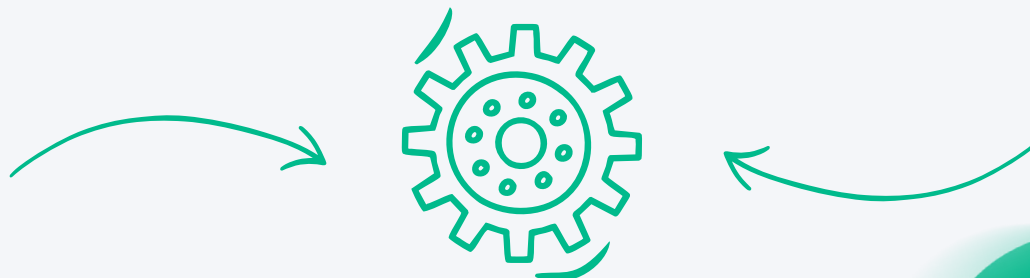
- ☐ Collect student devices
- ☐ Run inventory updates
- ☐ Remove old MDM records
- ☐ Retire lost or broken devices
- ☐ Identify devices needing repair

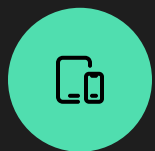
MDM cleanup

- ☐ Remove unused policies
- ☐ Remove unused configuration profiles
- ☐ Clean up Smart Groups

Certificate cleanup; check expiration dates for:

- ☐ Your MDM's HTTPS certificate
- ☐ Wi-Fi certificates
- ☐ Apple Push Notification service





Rebuild and prepare your environment

Ensure that your environment is fully rebuilt and ready to deploy devices.

Review PreStage enrollment

- ☐ Validate setup assistant configuration

Confirm the following

- ☐ Device naming
- ☐ User affinities
- ☐ Location assignments
- ☐ Setup assistant screens

Pre-test

- ☐ Double-check automated enrollment settings for Apple School Manager

Update

- ☐ OSes
- ☐ Apps
- ☐ App installers

Rebuild Smart Groups such as

- ☐ Elementary students
- ☐ Middle school students
- ☐ High school students
- ☐ Teachers
- ☐ Testing devices
- ☐ Library devices





Test everything

Create test devices to eliminate any surprises when thousands of devices turn on.

Test these workflows

- ☐ Wipe device
- ☐ ADE enrollment
- ☐ Wi-Fi connection
- ☐ Jamf enrollment
- ☐ App installs
- ☐ Login authentication
- ☐ Policy execution

Test these systems

- ☐ MDM
- ☐ Authentication and encryption service
- ☐ Wi-Fi
- ☐ Patch policies
- ☐ Security tools





Device imaging and deployment

Stage devices; ensure they're ready to hand out.

Device preparation

- ☐ Wipe student devices
- ☐ Assign devices to grades
- ☐ Install base apps
- ☐ Apply security profiles

Processes

- ☐ Erase devices
- ☐ Add configs and profiles into your MDM's Automated Device Enrollment section
- ☐ Double-check key Jamf policies and add any new ones
- ☐ Install base apps
- ☐ Assign students to their devices

Pre-cache large applications to prevent network congestion

- ☐ Productivity apps such as Microsoft Office
- ☐ High-bandwidth testing apps
- ☐ Creative apps such as Adobe Suite





The first week of school

Catch issues before they affect classrooms.

Monitor closely for

- ☐ Policy failures
- ☐ Enrollment failures
- ☐ Device check-in failures
- ☐ Wi-Fi profile errors

Create dashboards for

- ☐ New device enrollments
- ☐ Failed policies
- ☐ OS compliance status





Stabilization and optimization

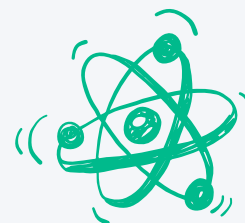
Doing enough preparation leaves IT free to focus on optimization.

Regularly

- ☐ Adjust Smart Group scopes
- ☐ Update and/or automate patch management
- ☐ Test and deploy new teacher-requested apps

Track and report

- ☐ Login times
- ☐ Network load
- ☐ Update compliance





Bonus tip: create a Jamf "Back-to-School" dashboard

**Identify problems within minutes
instead of days.**

- ☐ Device enrollment count
- ☐ Policy failures
- ☐ OS version distribution
- ☐ Devices not checked in

Jamf is here to help.

Set yourself up for success throughout the school year with Jamf!

Contact your representative with questions.

Request a trial today.