



We're Living in a Digital World...but that doesn't mean everything will change!

Balancing the effective use of technology is important as we prepare students for the future

Our students are learning differently today. Gone are the days of solely relying on copying spelling words 10 times each, or making flashcards to remember our math facts. Why? Because we have options and there is likely an app for that! Technology plays a significant role in virtually every aspect of our lives, so we don't ask our students to "power down" when they walk into school. We need to change with the times and adapt. The effective use of technology allows us to augment our instruction and provide digital means to accomplish tasks and provide students (and adults) with options in their educational journeys. We adapt by growing our capacity to effectively prepare students to become 21st century learners.

The Google Applications for Education Suite (GSuite) has revolutionized how our students access and explore the curriculum. Beginning in kindergarten, students learn to use digital tools. These tools engage students and allow them to collaboratively create, edit, and share assignments.

Teaching our students how to access technology and hone their skills is important; however, it is equally important that our students learn how to become good digital citizens. Every educator is a teacher of technology, and starting early we begin to teach each student to be safe and responsible digital learners.

Students are using technology in a variety of ways at the elementary level. Those in the upper grades use Google Classroom, a virtual classroom where work is shared between teacher and student. The enVisions math program has a feature called



Practice Buddy, which includes a step by step example, a glossary, and animated videos. Chromebooks are used daily for a variety of learning opportunities. Students use them to edit and revise their writing, to research topics of interest, and to practice their math fluency and spelling. Here are a few of the many (K-5) applications that students may use over the course of a day:

- Spelling City
- Dogo News
- Xtramath
- Math Playground
- Headsprout
- Reflex Math
- Epic!

Tips for monitoring your child's virtual life at home:

- Have your child show you his/her digital world - what are they playing or doing?
- Keep the digital device in a common area of your home, where you can see and monitor what your child is doing.
- Limit your child's screen time.

Technology can open many doors for our students. That said technology skills are not the most important traits we impart upon our students. Technology is a powerful tool that engages students, expands collaborations, supports problem solving, augments communications, and increases efficiencies. However, when the "lids are down" and students are interacting, they need to be able to look someone in the eye and speak confidently. We understand that balance and look forward to our partnership with our families as we prepare our students for the future.

~ Ms. Jennifer Moore - Principal, Penacook Elementary

Great News From Around the Merrimack Valley School District (MVSD)

Little "bites" of information from our seven schools - this month's featured school - Salisbury Elementary School (SES)

Fungo, The New Hampshire Fisher Cats mascot, visited SES, and challenged students to read five books outside of the normal school day during the school year. Students who complete the challenge will earn two tickets to a 2018 New Hampshire Fisher Cats game at Northeast Delta Dental Stadium at a special "Reading Challenge" celebration. Plus, each participant will get to play catch on the field at the game you choose to attend. The

schools with the highest percentage of students who complete the challenge have the opportunity to win cash prizes totaling \$5,000. **Salisbury Elementary School has won more cash prizes than any other New Hampshire school.** We have used the winnings to support "I Love to Read" month author visits and many other reading related activities. Let's win again SES!

What is your Educational Acronym IQ? Like any Profession, Education is full of Acronyms

This month's installment of educational acronyms focuses on acronyms linked to local, state, and federal tests

PSAT - Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test

SAT - Scholastic Aptitude Test

STAR - Standardized Test for the Assessment of Reading (and Math)

DLM - Dynamic Learning Maps



NWEA - Northwest Evaluation Association

MAP - Measures of Academic Progress

DIBELS - Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills

NAEP - National Assessment of Educational Progress