

Be consistent with tech tools

To create lifelong learners, teachers must be consistent with their approach to using technology in the classroom. Teachers should align their instructional strategies and technology tools to the standards they are teaching. This will prepare 21st century learners with the skills to succeed beyond the classroom setting. With seamless technology integration, the technology tool becomes an integral and natural part of the learning process and environment. For this to come naturally, teachers must be consistent in using technology and tools to transform how they collaborate, foster creativity, communicate, and apply critical thinking. With this consistency, students will think about their thinking, plan to learn, and monitor or assess their learning. Teachers do not need to be an expert at every tool that is available. Instead, teachers should select several tools that can be used in a variety of different ways and use them over and over in their classrooms. This allows for teachers and students to gain familiarity and fluency with the tools.



SUMMARY

With seamless technology integration, the technology tool becomes an integral and natural part of the learning process and environment.

- Start small by choosing a few technology tools to use often
- Be aware of differences in the user interface between student and teacher accounts
- Practice with students often
- Use district-approved and vetted high-quality digital materials, apps, and websites

Why it matters



“Effective integration of technology is achieved when students are able to select technology tools to help them obtain information in a timely manner, analyze and synthesize the information, and present it professionally. The technology should become an integral part of how the classroom functions -- as accessible as all other classroom tools” (n.a., 2007).

“Technology is effective when it adds value to the lesson by enhancing the learning in ways that could not easily be done without technology. For example, some tools support differentiation or break down concepts to make them easier to understand. Additionally, software that helps students elicit higher-level thinking tends to be more beneficial to cognitive growth than drill and practice software” (Kolb, 2018).

What it looks like in practice



PRINCIPALS SEE

Students following classroom norms unprompted

Students navigating from digital to nondigital platforms with ease

Students using digital tools daily; consistent flow of content (i.e., goal, direct instruction, assignment, discussion)

TEACHERS SEE

Students access various tools without the need for a prompt.

Students use a set of teacher-approved digital tools in lessons or modules

Digital tools matching students' skill levels

Tools enhancing the ability of students to meet learning expectations

FAMILIES SEE

Students can troubleshoot issues by using digital tools normally used in class

Students are aware of how to use tools outside the classroom

Students able to access digital tools on devices that are taken home

Links shared by teachers are updated and working properly



What you can try

- >> During bell work: Students follow class norms when entering the classroom, by sitting in a seat and logging on to the school's learning management system (LMS) (e.g., Canvas, Google Classroom, Schoology) for directions in the day's announcements.
- >> During transition: After completing bell work, LMS will unlock the next assignment or prompt with objectives referenced. Flipgrid or Screencastify can be used to introduce the day's lesson.
- >> During the lesson: Chunk lessons while using various tech tools to assess retention (e.g., Edpuzzle/YouTube, Google Forms/Microsoft Forms, Quizzizz/Kahoot).
- >> During the close of the lesson: Students use discussion board posts within LMS to explain what they learned for the day as an exit ticket.

REFERENCES

What Is Successful Technology Integration? (2007, November 5). Edutopia. <https://www.edutopia.org/technology-integration-guide-description>

Kolb, L. (2018, September 28). *Research-Based Tech Integration Strategies*. Edutopia. <https://www.edutopia.org/article/research-based-tech-integration-strategies>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

ISTE Standards The ISTE Standards provide competencies for learning, teaching and leading in the digital age, providing a comprehensive roadmap for the effective use of technology in schools worldwide.

<https://www.iste.org/iste-standards>