Parents' Guide to Technology in the LWSD

Lake Washington School District

Today's students are growing up with increasing access to digital tools, in and out of school. How, then, does Lake Washington School District use technology to help these students learn? This guide outlines the tools the district uses and how each of these tools affect student learning.

Our vision as a district is to ensure that our students graduate *Future Ready*. To get there, the Student Profile and student learning standards help us define the skills, attributes, and content knowledge that students need. Technology skills are part of that content knowledge. However, technology skills are not an end. They are a means to learning.

Integrating technology into teaching and learning helps enhance communication, collaboration, and critical thinking. Technology integration prepares students for a digital future and is achieved when:

- It is a seamless part of the learning process.
- The use of technology is routine and transparent.
- Technology is accessible and readily available for every student.
- Technology tools help students learn content standards and curriculum goals.

This Parents' Guide outlines technology use in the district. It is organized into four sections:

1) **Classroom Technologies and Student Devices** – the technology in every classroom and how this technology benefits teachers and student learning.

2) **Technology Applications for Learning** – the software and applications used to enhance learning.

3) **Technology Standards and Skill Learning Expectations** – an overview of the technology standards and rationale for specifying which skills students should learn.

4) **Technology Systems for Student/Teacher/Parent Communication** – a description of the systems in place to enhance communication.

You will note that this guide does not cover technology infrastructure and support. Those foundations ensure that tools are available when students and teachers need them. The technology operations department oversees a fiber optic network, servers, service desk and more. All of these functions support the 25,000 computers used every day in the district.

Classroom Technologies and Student Devices

Lake Washington School District provides state-of-the-art classroom technology to both teachers and students. Reliable hardware for learning and productivity is supported by a carefully constructed foundation. The district provides fiber optics, robust web access capabilities, professional learning, and technical support.

Classroom Technologies

A standard classroom in the district is well equipped. You can expect to find the following technology at teacher workstations:

Technology	Benefits for teaching and learning
A. A digital document camera	The digital document camera allows a teacher or student to project live pictures of their work for everyone to see.
B. A computer with a DVD drive	The computer with a DVD drive is at the heart of the classroom presentation station. This computer brings together all the other classroom presentation devices. Those devices include the digital document camera, LCD projector and ACTIVboard. This computer connects the classroom to resources outside of the classroom. Those resources include educational materials and programs hosted on district servers and on the Internet.
C. A mounted LCD projector	The mounted LCD projector projects images from the classroom presentation computer and the document camera onto the ACTIVboard.
D. Classroom amplification system	The classroom amplification system ensures that teachers and students are clearly heard without undue effort by the speaker or the listener.
E. ACTIVboard (an interactive whiteboard)	The ACTIVboard and teaching software allow teachers to design interactive, visually-enhanced lessons.

Student Devices

LWSD's Mobile Access for Students initiative (MAS) brings mobile computing devices into the classroom to improve learning. Classroom teachers use technology to introduce, assess, reinforce, and enrich student learning.

Technology	Benefits for teaching and learning
Grades K – 5: Three-to-one model for K-2 students and two-to-one model for 3-5 students	This robust, cart-based laptop program allows students to access learning tools. Examples include online research databases, early literacy programs such as Headsprout, and a vast array of digital resources connected to the district-adopted curriculum materials. These mobile devices are shared between classrooms. Carts with computers become group learning centers that teachers use to enrich and expand their lessons.
Grades 6 – 12: One-to-one model provides every student with a district-issued laptop computer	These laptops provide anytime, anywhere access to learning. Students use devices to: access information and create projects, collaborate with others on shared assignments, communicate directly and regularly with their teachers, and access specific digital resources that support learning in many content areas. Technology allows students hands-on experience with problem-based learning.

Technology Applications for Learning

Lake Washington School District provides a wide array of software applications that support the full spectrum of learners in all grade levels and subjects. These applications help students to access information, acquire skills and reinforce classroom instruction. They also enhance clear communication.

All Grades		
Description	**Example**	**Benefits for teaching and learning**
Applications associated with district purchased textbooks	Digital Textbooks	Most district-purchased textbooks come with access to companion websites that include digital textbooks, learning resources, and interactive learning features.
Streaming educational multimedia library	Discovery Education Streaming	Teachers and students access vast libraries of educational video clips. Also provides full-length features and interactive tutorials.
Classroom management tool	DyKnow	DyKnow Monitor is a software program that allows teachers to interact with student mobile devices. DyKnow allows teachers to guide, interact and supervise student use of mobile devices.
Learning management system	PowerSchool Learning	Students and parents have 24/7 access to individual class and assignment information. Students may engage in lessons, check class calendars, complete assignments, take polls and complete assessments. They can participate in discussion boards and wikis. PowerSchool helps students to know due dates, access learning materials, and engage in group activities. Parents can view their own student's classes.
Information resources for student and teacher web searches and class projects	Library Databases	Students and parents have direct links to high quality research databases. Home access is also available.
Microsoft Office Suite of programs, and cloud document storage and management	Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus and OneDrive	Office tools enable collaboration (OneNote), knowledge presentation capability (PowerPoint), data manipulation and display (Excel), communication through email (Outlook), document/essay production (Word), surveys (Forms), and feedback for students (OneNote Class Notebook).

Elementary Level		
Description	**Examples**	**Benefits for teaching and learning**
Early phonemic awareness assessment	DIBELS Next	Students demonstrate reading abilities on Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills. Growth is monitored over time. Allows individual evaluation of students so they can be supported in reading development.
Online K-5 LWSD curriculum	enVisionMath	Resource for teaching math visually, hands on, using digital objects to solve math problems. Students investigate data and develop critical thinking.
Phonics skills for grades K-2	Headsprout	Promotes and supports the acquisition of phonics skills.
Online social studies textbooks and curriculum for grades K-3, 5-6.	TCI Online	Website includes a digital textbook, resources, and a digital workbook for each student. Assignments are delivered and completed digitally.
Self-guided keyboarding instruction	Type to Learn 4	This program teaches keyboarding, whether for skill acquisition or skill refinement.
Literacy Curriculum	Wonders	A rich array of video, audio, and visual resources for teaching. They can be projected on the ActivBoard. Students can use them while working on projects and assignments.
Secondary Level		
Description	**Examples**	**Benefits for teaching and learning**
Graphic design, video editing and photography related applications	Adobe Creative Cloud	Desktop and mobile versions of a collection of Adobe software that enhance instruction and engage students. Tools also support Career and Technical Education course work.
Career development software	Career Cruising	An online tool used for completing the components of the Washington State High School and Beyond Plan graduation requirements.
Combination software and textbook program for Middle School Math tutoring	Cognitive Tutor	This combination software and textbook program is used for students not at standard. It provides tutoring by differentiating based on student need and progress.
Interactive software program for geometry, algebra, calculus, and other areas of mathematics	Geometer's Sketchpad	Facilitates dynamic exploration of geometric figures and graphs in plane. Students are able to explore geometric properties and measure angles and lengths.
Individualized writing tutor for students in grades 7-12	My Access	Students use pre-writing and drafting tools. Then they engage with a digital writing tutor to receive individualized and specific feedback on their submissions to improve writing output.
Interactive language acquisition program	Rosetta Stone	World language training program that provides students with individual support in language acquisition.
Turnitin.com	Internet-based plagiarism-prevention service	Provides originality checking and electronic commenting by teachers. Electronic peer editing and discussion boards are also available.

Section 3: Technology Standards and Skill Learning Expectations

The technology standards are organized from kindergarten through 12th grade. Teachers, students, and parents can see how a learning expectation differs from grade to grade and across grade spans. These technology standards are embedded in all curriculum content areas, K-12.

The technology standards are organized into two general areas and their components: **Integration** and **Digital Citizenship**.

Integration

Students use technology within all content areas to collaborate, communicate, generate innovative ideas, investigate and solve problems.

Innovate:

Demonstrate creative thinking.
Construct knowledge.
Develop innovative products and processes using technology.

Collaborate:

Use digital media environments to communicate.
Work collaboratively to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others.

Investigate and Think Critically:

Research, manage and evaluate information.
Solve problems using digital tools and resources.

Digital Citizenship

Students demonstrate a clear understanding of technology systems and operations and the student Acceptable Use Procedures. They practice safe, legal and ethical behavior.

Practice Safety
Practice safe, legal and ethical behavior in the use of information and technology.

Operate Systems
Understand technology systems.
Use hardware and networks to support learning.

Select and Use Applications
Use productivity tools and common applications effectively and constructively.

Adapt to Change (Technology Fluency)
Transfer current knowledge to new and emerging technologies

Technology Skills Continuum

The elementary and secondary Technology Skills Continuums articulate the specific skills taught at each grade level that enable students to meet the Technology Standards. Skills are organized by categories and aligned to standards.

Section 4: Technology Systems for Student/Teacher/Parent Communication

Lake Washington School District provides a number of systems to enhance effective communication between and among staff, students, and parents. When parents are engaged in their student's education, students tend to learn more.

Technology for Student/Teacher/ Parent Communication	Purpose and Function
Constant Contact	Email listserv system that allows parents to sign up for automatic delivery of district newsletters.
Family Access • Attendance • Grades	Parents may view their child's grade and attendance records through Skyward, as well as other information recorded in the district's student information system.
PowerSchool	PowerSchool is a learning management system. Students access announcements, assignments, class calendars, dropboxes, discussion boards, polls, and assessments. Parents view the class websites of their student's teachers. PowerSchool posts a daily message board listing updates, assignments, and announcements when a student or parent logs in.
Parent Access • Applications • Email • Information	A district website where parents log on to access district applications via links, as well as important and timely posted messages. The site contains hyperlinks to email each of their child's teachers. Links provide access to Family Access and StandardsScore (see below).
Public websites • District site • School sites	LWSD.org provides extensive information about district activities and initiatives. School sites provide contact information along with information about programs and staff.
SchoolMessenger	A phone outreach system that auto-dials district staff and parents. It can be used to inform them of weather delays/closures, provide reminders of events, etc.
Student Access	A district website where students can access district applications via links, as well as important, timely messages posted by the district.
Tandem Calendar	Parents, students, staff and community members can view events for the district and all schools. They can track events in their digital calendars. They can receive email or text message updates. The calendar feeds school website "Event" sections.