

STEM Spotlight/ Bits & Bytes – February 27, 2020

Did you know that every student at SHS has a Microsoft Office365 account? We use these accounts for school data management, but students begin to interact with their accounts beginning in 2nd grade.

How do we use Office365 programs? How do we build on skills age-appropriately over time? Over the next few weeks, we will be sharing ways that various programs are used in different grade levels and classes- Outlook, OneNote, Teams, Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Stream are all used in interesting ways throughout our school day!

Microsoft OneNote:

Students are first introduced to OneNote in 5th grade, then continue to use it throughout middle school. OneNote is a digital notebook that...

- *Organizes:* Students can stay organized with a digital notebook for each class that is divided into sections and pages. Notes are searchable, and don't get lost in a binder or left at home!
- *Engages:* Students can type, draw, add online photos, take personal photos, annotate, highlight and more! Teachers can embed videos with questions, notes, and other learning tools for students to access right in front of them, at home or a school!
- *Links:* Collaboration spaces allow students to work together with each other or with a teacher in real time. Teachers have access to student work to check progress and provide feedback instantly!
- *Empowers:* Accessibility features in OneNote, such as the read aloud option, give students with a wide range of learning styles and needs the tools they need to succeed in class!

Throughout our middle school, students use OneNote in a variety of ways in their different classes. Mrs. Niemer has created an interactive and informative Social Studies textbook; Mrs. Steer creates personalized Spanish lessons with for native-Spanish speakers who need a more challenging lesson than their peers; Mrs. Engman sends class instructions to keep absent students organized, and has students practice the LA skills of annotating on a digital page; Mrs. Chambers provides math problems in OneNote for students to complete and which she can instantly check from her own device; And so much more! Many local high schools also use OneNote.

Connect: *Discuss with your child, what makes notetaking enjoyable and/or memorable? What makes it challenging? How can OneNote & digital notetaking support & improve these aspects of notetaking?*

Questions? Comments? Please contact [Deanna Simons](#).