Methacton School District AI Update

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Methacton School District & AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Committees

- Two committees - one focused on operational efficiency and the other one teaching and learning
- Both committees met once a month
- Operational Efficiency Committee
    - Continuing their work and preparing for professional development of staff in 2026-2027
- Teaching and Learning Committee
    - Fall - Professional development for the committee members
    - Winter and Spring - Trial AI tools and practices in classrooms and share during our meetings
    - Spring - Developed AI recommendations for the Board as we discuss next steps in Methacton



AI Committee's Position

Our Committee's Position on AI for Students

AI should help students think, learn, create, and communicate more effectively. AI should **NOT** replace student thinking or bypass foundational skills. Our goal is to develop students who can think critically, create authentically, learn independently, and use AI responsibly.

Our Committee's Position on AI for Educators

AI should enhance educators' capabilities, boosting productivity and personalizing learning experiences, while ensuring that teaching and learning remain human-centered and focused on student needs.



Student Focus



AI-Driven Language Acquisition

Real-World Simulation

Deploy AI personas to act as local vendors or cultural figures, providing low-anxiety, spontaneous practice in authentic interpersonal scenarios.

Strategic Differentiation

Instantly level authentic texts for various proficiency tiers and generate personalized sentence scaffolds to meet specific learner needs.

Cultural Intelligence

Decode regional idioms, slang, and etiquette in real-time, offering students a deeper understanding of target cultures beyond the textbook.

Automated Assessment

Implement instant feedback loops for pronunciation and grammar, allowing students to correct fossilized errors with high-precision AI diagnostics.



Academic Integrity

Citations and Judgment

Clear Citations

When AI contributes to student work, requiring clear citation is essential to maintain academic integrity and give credit to original ideas and sources used in assignments.

Teacher Judgment

Teachers should use their professional judgment as the first line of defense when evaluating suspicious work, ensuring that assessments are fair and grounded in educational standards.

Evidence of Learning

Utilizing Digital Footprints Effectively

Digital Footprint

Requiring a digital footprint helps track progress and encourages students to document their learning journey, fostering accountability and reflection throughout the educational process.

Version History

Utilizing tools like version history ensures that educators can monitor changes and revisions, providing insight into students' thought processes and development over time.

Ethics, Equity, and Access

Reducing Barriers and Ethical Decision-Making

Expanding Access

AI can help reduce barriers to educational resources, making information more accessible to all students, promoting equity and enhancing learning opportunities.

Ethical Usage

AI can be an extreme useful tool but it can also be used in ways that can be harmful to ourselves and others. It is important that we promote the ethical and appropriate use of this new technology.



AI Use: The Traffic Light System

GREEN LIGHT

AI supports learning through brainstorming, studying, organizing notes, clarifying concepts, and providing feedback, ensuring visible student thinking remains central.

- Brainstorming
- Studying
- Organizing Notes
- Clarifying Concepts
- Providing Feedback

YELLOW LIGHT

Teacher guidance is needed for draft revisions, research support, coding assistance, and exploring different perspectives, with limits clearly defined by teachers.

- Draft Revisions
- Research Support
- Coding Assistance
- Exploring Different Perspectives
- Limits Defined by Teachers

RED LIGHT

Students must not submit AI-generated work as original, copy/paste responses, or bypass required thinking, as relying on AI hinders learning.

- Do not submit AI-generated work as original
- Do not copy/paste responses
- Do not bypass required thinking

Insights from Student Data

Patterns in Evidence Integration

- **Dropped Quotations:** High frequency of quotes starting sentences without attribution.
- **Interpretation Deficit:** Minimal explanation following evidence, assuming the quote "speaks for itself."
- **Grammatical Disconnect:** Failure to integrate quotes seamlessly into the student's own sentence structure.

> *"The issue is not citation — it is control and interpretation of evidence."*



Unlocking New Possibilities



Scale Analysis

Process multiple class sections simultaneously to identify broad trends.



Identify Trends

Distinguish between strong embedding, weak embedding, and missing analysis.



Focus Efforts

Surface "invisible" instructional needs that are difficult to see manually.

Staff Focus



AI is a powerful tool, but our impact comes from how we use it.

Efficiency

Use AI to increase staff efficiency and effectiveness.

Process

Design process-based assessments emphasizing thinking over product.

Responsibility

Teach students how to use AI ethically and responsibly.

Rigor

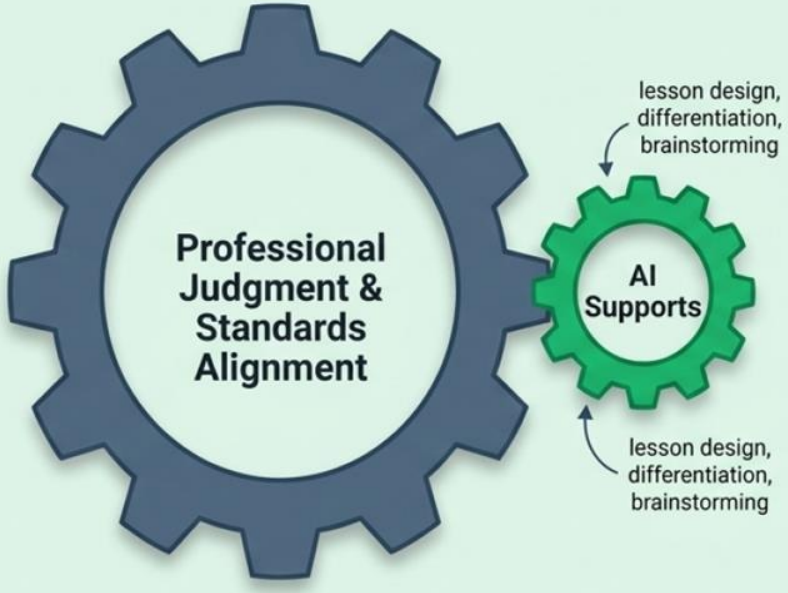
Maintain high expectations and rigor while adapting to new technologies.

At Methacton, we will use AI to enhance—not replace—the work that matters most. Keep learning human-centered.

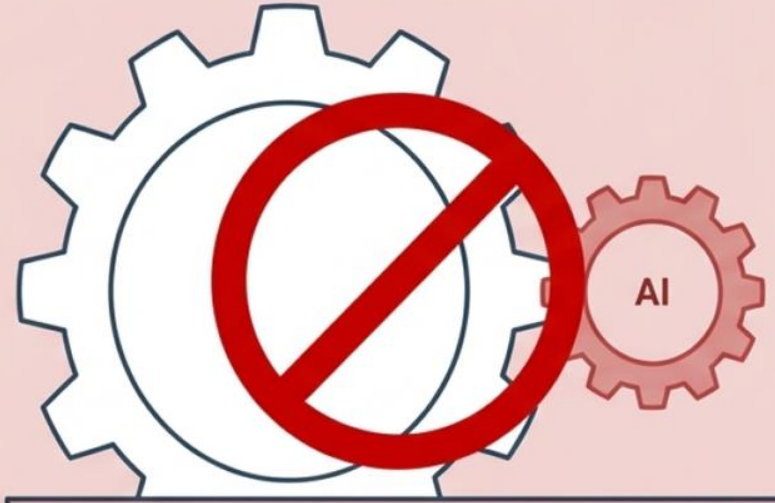
NotebookLM

AI serves as an active assistant, never a passive replacement.

The Methacton Way: Augmentation



Avoid: Substitution



Cannot replace professional judgment, standards alignment, or evaluation of student learning.

Teacher's Source Material



Powered by Gemini



- Study Guides
- Audio Podcasts
- Flashcards
- Infographics
- Video Formats

NotebookLM

Professional Learning

Commitment to Ongoing Training

Continuous Support

We are dedicated to providing continuous support for staff, ensuring they have the resources needed to effectively integrate AI into their teaching practices.

Process-Based Assessments

We will emphasize process-based assessments that cultivate student thinking, ensuring that learning remains rigorous and aligned with educational standards throughout the integration of AI.

Adapting to Technology

Our commitment involves maintaining instructional rigor while adapting to new technologies, helping educators navigate the evolving landscape of AI in education effectively.

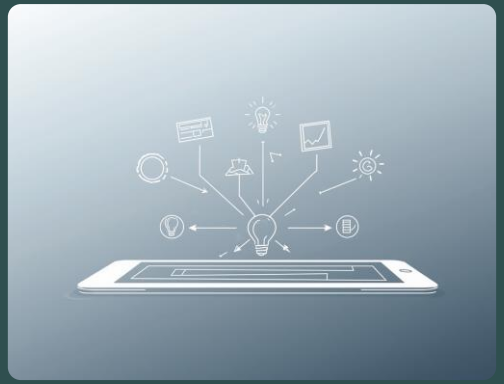
Green Light Activities

Brainstorming



Brainstorming with AI can enhance creativity and foster collaborative learning among educators.

Outlining



AI assists in outlining by organizing thoughts and structuring content effectively for lessons.

Differentiation



AI tools support differentiation, tailoring resources to meet diverse student needs in classrooms.

Yellow Light Activities

Drafting Materials



Use AI tools to assist in drafting materials while maintaining professional oversight throughout the process.

Generating Feedback



AI can help synthesize feedback but remember to provide a professional review before sharing with others.

Family Communication



Use AI for family communication but ensure all messages are reviewed for clarity and accuracy.

Red Light Activities

Entering PII



Avoid entering personally identifiable information in any AI tools to protect student privacy.

Bypassing Grading

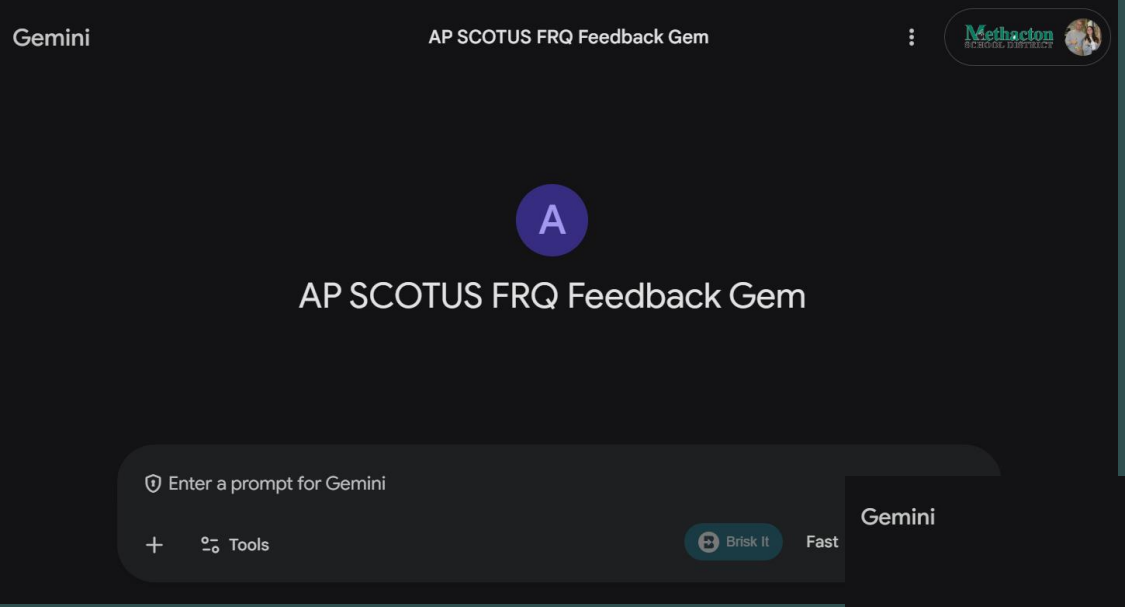


AI cannot replace grading decisions; professional judgment is crucial for accurate assessments.

Foundational Learning

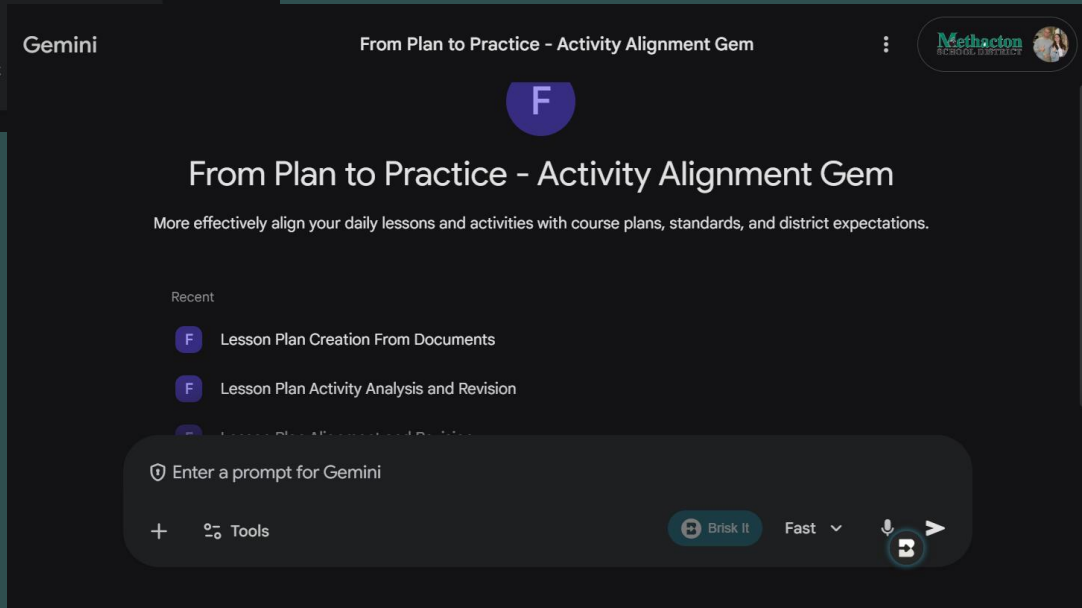


Essential foundational learning must not be bypassed; relying on AI as a shortcut hinders the developmental learning process.



Student Use

Staff Use



Next Steps

Policy, Guidelines, and Training

- Discuss full proposal with the Board to determine if we are interested in policy, guidelines, or acceptable use updates
- For the 2026-2027 school year - extend and expand on the AI staff training that started this school year

Student AI Committee

- Develop a student AI Committee to work with members of our staff AI Committee to seek student input on the future of AI in our schools



Thank you!

AI may shape the future of **education**, but **educators** shape the future of our **students.**