



A GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

Technology in Your Child's Classroom

Moving from using technology to creating with it

In grades 3–5, students begin using technology to research, make, and share. The question we ask before every activity: does this help students think and create in a way paper can't? If not, we use paper.

What to expect in the classroom



Devices

Classrooms share iPad carts. Devices stay at school and are used for projects and practice.



How often

It varies by lesson. Some days are mostly hands-on. Project days may use more. Screens are never a time-filler or a reward.



Teacher's role

Before: sets the goal. During: circulates and checks in. After: talks about what students learned, not just what they made.

What good technology use looks like

A research journal

Students research an animal's habitat, then build a journal with typed facts, hand-drawn diagrams, and a recorded narration.

Real data, real charts

Partners survey classmates on a question they care about, enter the data, make a chart, and present one finding.

Talking through a scenario

Small groups discuss what to do if a classmate's photo is shared without permission, then record their decision.

Skills your child is building

- Typing, organizing files, and using shared documents
- Finding information and deciding if a source is trustworthy
- Creating slides, audio, video, and simple charts
- Beginning coding and problem-solving with technology

Digital citizenship

- Keeping passwords and personal information private
- Respecting other people's work and giving credit
- Understanding that what you do online leaves a footprint



Be Safe

Protect yourself and your information online.



Be Responsible

Use technology honestly and with a purpose.



Be Kind

Treat others with respect in digital spaces.



Be Balanced

Know when to use screens and when to step away.



About AI at this age

Students learn what AI is and how it works, but only with a teacher guiding the experience, such as watching a teacher demonstrate how a chatbot responds. Students do not chat with AI on their own. Some creative tools have built-in AI features; teachers set the limits and review the work. The goal is understanding, not avoidance.

How you can partner with us at home

TRY ASKING

"What did you do that you can't do on paper?"

It's the same question teachers ask themselves, and a window into how technology is used in class.

TALK ABOUT

Where facts come from

When your child shares something they found online, you might ask, "How do you know it's true?" It's a skill we're building at this age.

AT HOME

Let your child be the expert

Students learn about safe passwords and private information at school. Ask your child to show you what they know.

Every child is different. If your child has an IEP or 504 plan, technology may be used differently to support their learning. Questions? Your child's teacher is the best place to start.