



A GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

Technology in Your Child's Classroom

Developing independence with clear structure

Middle school students have their own device for the school day, but having a device does not mean using it all day. Every day includes lessons with screens off, and students practice clear routines for when devices are on or off.

What to expect in the classroom



Devices

Each student has a school device that stays at the building. It does not go home.



How often

It changes by class and by day. Some lessons are digital (writing, research, data). Others are device-free on purpose: discussion, labs, group work.



Teacher's role

Teachers use "screens off" routines during instruction, move around the room while devices are in use, and build in non-screen learning every day.

What good technology use looks like

Which source can you trust?

Students compare three articles about the same event (one reliable, one biased, one satire) and write a paragraph defending their pick.

Feedback from a classmate

Students draft an essay, then trade with a partner who leaves two compliments and one suggestion using comments.

Telling a story with data

Students survey their grade, build charts, and write a short analysis. They present while the audience keeps screens off.

Skills your child is building

- Writing, editing, and giving feedback in shared documents
- Organizing and analyzing data in spreadsheets
- Making videos, presentations, and portfolios
- Coding and digital design

Digital citizenship

- Spotting misinformation and bias
- Standing up to cyberbullying; communicating with respect
- Knowing who can see what you share
- Noticing when it's time for a screen break



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 how AI tools create content, how to recognize AI-made material, and when AI is (and is not) a good tool. Any use happens in teacher-guided activities with district-approved tools and clear rules about honesty. The standard: a student should be able to explain what the AI did and whether they trust its output.

How you can partner with us at home

TRY ASKING

"What did you do today with your screen off?"

There's always an answer. Discussion, labs, and group work are part of every school day.

TALK ABOUT

What's real online

Look at a headline or post together and ask, "How could we check this?" Spotting misinformation is a core skill now.

AT HOME

Device-free moments

Middle schoolers are still building self-control with screens. Many families find a device-free meal or evening, with adults joining in, goes a long way.

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.