



A GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

Technology in Your Child's Classroom

Building foundations, one short session at a time

In first and second grade, most learning is still hands-on and led by the teacher. Technology is one learning option among several, used in short sessions to practice skills and create simple projects.

What to expect in the classroom



Devices

Classrooms share iPad carts. Devices stay at school, and students use them only for teacher-assigned activities.



How often

Short sessions, usually as one of several learning options. Some days devices are not used at all, and many days use very little.



Teacher's role

The teacher moves around the room, checks in, asks questions, and keeps every activity tied to a learning goal.

What good technology use looks like

Retelling a story in their own voice

After a read-aloud, a student records a 30-second retelling and adds a drawing. The teacher listens to check understanding.

Explaining their math thinking

Students solve a problem, then draw and record themselves explaining how they solved it. The teacher gets to hear every child's reasoning.

Writing a story with a friend

Two students each add a page to a short digital book about a science topic the class is studying.

Skills your child is building

- Carrying and caring for a shared device
- Opening the right app and following directions
- Recording their voice, drawing, and typing simple words
- Working with a partner on a shared project

Digital citizenship

- Using only the apps the teacher assigns
- Asking before clicking on anything unfamiliar
- Understanding that screens are one part of learning, not all of it



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 in grades 1–2 do not use AI tools. Teachers may talk simply about how computers follow instructions from people, the way you might explain how a recipe works. The goal is curiosity, not use.

How you can partner with us at home

TRY ASKING

"Did you make anything on the iPad this week?"

If the answer is a recording, drawing, or story, ask them to tell it to you. Retelling is great practice.

TALK ABOUT

The classroom iPad rules

Ask your child what the rules are: two hands, only the teacher's apps, ask before clicking. Kids love explaining rules, and it helps them stick.

AT HOME

Routines that work for your family

Many families find a few predictable habits help, like a regular stopping time for screens. Whatever fits your home is what matters.

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.