SUMMIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education • 14 Beekman Terrace • Summit, New Jersey 07901-1702 • 908-273-3023
Scott D. Hough, Superintendent of Schools

September 23, 2026

Dear Summit Public Schools Families,

As you may know, Summit Public Schools is taking a more intentional and informed approach to technology usage in our classrooms. I'd like to take this opportunity to share a little more about this endeavor.

Over the last year, we reviewed the growing body of cognitive science and clinical research that shows excessive digitization can compromise deep reading comprehension, long-term memory recall, and child development. Some of the resources we reviewed include:

HealthyChildren.Org Helping Kids Thrive in a Digital World
JAMA Pediatrics: Screen Media Use and Academic Performance
American Psychological Association: ScreenTime and Emotional Problems in Kids

This past summer, the district organized a student technology usage committee to evaluate how Summit educators should use technology in the classroom to enrich learning. Through our collaboration with administrators, teachers and school counselors, we created the following guiding principles to inform teachers when technology should be used.

Technology should only be used when it will:

- Enrich student learning
- Provide targeted differentiation
- Empower teachers with measurable data
- Develop digital skills

Families will notice several changes this year such as:

- In all schools, we will utilize Google Class Tools, which only allow students to access content intended by the teacher.

- At the elementary level, Chromebooks will remain in classroom carts until they are needed for a specific learning purpose. They will not go home with students. Chromebooks will not be used during indoor recess or as a reward.

- At the secondary level, students will be directed by the teacher when they need to use their Chromebooks for learning. Students will have more opportunities to complete handwritten classwork, interact with peers, and contribute to classroom discussions.

This is not about removing technology from the learning environment. It is about using digital resources with purpose while making room for more conversation, creativity, critical thinking, hands-on experiences and human connection.

Thank you for your partnership as we continue our mission, which is to prepare all students to thrive in an evolving world.

Be well,



Scott D. Hough
Superintendent of Summit Public Schools