



Curriculum & Instruction

SUMMIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Introduction

Summit Public Schools is redefining its purpose and vision for student technology usage to better reflect 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. In response to these findings, Summit has established clear expectations for student technology usage, setting research-informed guiding principles for educators to determine when digital tools should or should not be utilized. These guiding principles follow a developmental progression that aligns with grade level recommendations and NJ State Standards.

Purpose & Vision Statement

In Summit Public Schools we believe in a purposeful, informed approach to teaching and learning where technology enhances, never replaces, human connection, discourse, and instruction in our classrooms. Summit educators intentionally select effective instructional methodologies to achieve learning objectives, seamlessly blending print-based materials, hands-on exploration, and digital innovation.

When technology is utilized with students, its purpose is to transform, support, or inform instruction in one of the following three ways:

- Enrich student learning, providing students opportunities to design, research, collaborate, and create in innovative, authentic ways.
- Provide targeted differentiation and accommodations to meet the unique learning needs of every student.
- Empower teachers with measurable data to track student growth, respond to demonstrated needs, and ensure instruction achieves the desired learning outcomes.

By integrating modern technology with rich experiential learning, we foster adaptable, well-rounded learners who are prepared to thrive in an evolving world.



Curriculum & Instruction

SUMMIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Guiding Principles

To ensure our approach to digital learning reflects Summit's core educational values, the following Guiding Principles for student technology use establish our district-wide framework. These principles define our shared commitments across all schools, guiding how we adopt tools, design instruction, and cultivate healthy digital habits.

Guiding Principles

Emphasize Purpose Over Routine.

Technology is used intentionally to enrich learning. Technology usage has a clear purpose that aligns with the learning objectives and transforms student learning. Technology enriches the learning process by providing experiential learning, access, and research that goes beyond the classroom walls.

Enrich, Never Replace, Instruction.

Technology enriches student learning to accomplish curriculum goals in innovative and authentic ways which could not be achieved through print-based methods. This leads to productive collaboration, creation, and design.

Support Differentiated Instruction.

Technology provides equitable access, digital tools, and provides targeted differentiation and accommodations to meet the specific, targeted needs of students.

Collect Data to Inform Instruction.

Technology collects data to track student growth, respond to demonstrated needs, and ensure instruction achieves the desired learning outcomes.

Develop Digital Skills.

Technology provides students with authentic opportunities to develop the digital skills they need to communicate, create, collaborate, research, and demonstrate their learning. Digital skills are intentionally embedded within meaningful curricular experiences rather than taught in isolation to build students' digital independence and confidence.

Communicate Consistently and Transparently.

Technology usage decisions are consistently and clearly communicated by teachers so students and families understand its purpose in their instruction. Teachers follow district expectations to ensure technology is a tool for and not an impediment to authentic educational experiences.