AI in Our Schools:

A Family Guide to Artificial Intelligence in Education

Understanding AI: The Basics

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is designed to mimic human intelligence. The kind you will hear about most is *Generative AI*, which can actually create brand-new content based on existing information it has learned. The underlying engine of an AI platform is called a *Large Language Model (LLM*). This "brain" must be trained in order to be effective, and it uses resources developers provide and/or publicly accessible information from the internet, to create responses for users. Closed AI systems, like those approved for use within Forsyth County Schools for student use, do not allow user data to be used to train the AI models.

Safety, Privacy & Wellbeing

FCS is committed to addressing the challenges of AI while realizing its benefits, prioritizing the safety and security of all students. As part of the district-wide Digital Citizenship program, AI lessons are introduced at all levels. Tiered lessons include:

- **Elementary:** What is AI - AI & Patterns - How Chatbots work - Prompt engineering
- **Middle & High:** Smart & Fair use - Good & True Information - Human in the Loop

Partnering at Home: As parents/guardians, you play a key role in guiding your child's technology use. We encourage you to monitor use of age-appropriate AI tools at home, set clear expectations regarding ethical use, and encourage critical thinking by reminding your child to always verify AI-generated facts with reliable sources.

Conversation Starters – Try one at dinner tonight

"Did you use AI this week? How did it help you?"

"How can you tell if something created by AI is true?"

"Would you trust AI to make an important decision for you? Why?"

In the Classroom: Our approach to AI is grounded in the principle of the "human in the loop." AI is a powerful tool designed to augment — not replace — critical thinking, professional expertise and human connection. Forsyth County Schools values academic integrity and fosters a culture of original intellectual growth.

- **Original Work:** Students must submit work that is fundamentally their own. Submitting AI-generated work as original thought is considered plagiarism.
- **Proper Citation:** If a teacher permits the use of AI for an assignment, students must properly credit and cite the AI-generated content.
- **AP & IB Restrictions:** Programs like Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) have specific parameters for the use of AI tools set by those organizations. Students must adhere to the guidelines for these course requirements.

Want more information about AI in Forsyth County Schools? Visit the dedicated webpage on the district AI initiative: https://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/fcsai