DIGITAL LEARNING
BEST PRACTICES

Incorporate digital citizenship

All students require digital citizenship skills to fully participate in their communities and make informed decisions online and in life.

- Remind students of digital citizenship best practices often, especially when introducing a new technology tool
- Review FERPA/privacy regulations/privacy statements when choosing technology tools
- Ensure technology tools have been reviewed and approved by the district technology department
- Embed authentic digital citizenship tasks throughout lessons and learning activities

ISTE Standards for Educators 2.1, 2.3

Ensure that the purpose for using technology is aligned to lesson targets

Technology tools should assist students in focusing their attention on the learning goals and the activity at hand rather than distracting from them.

- Begin technology integration by addressing gaps in lessons where more resources are needed
- Use technology tools to scaffold instruction
- Add technology tools to vetted lessons to enhance student learning

ISTE Standards for Educators 2.5, 2.6

Be consistent with technology tools

With seamless technology integration, the technology tool becomes an integral and natural part of the learning process and environment.

- Start small by choosing a few technology tools to use often
- Be aware of differences in the user interface between student and teacher accounts
- Practice with students often
- Use district-approved and vetted high-quality digital materials, apps, and websites

IISTE Standards for Educators 2.1, 2.3, 2.4

mdek12.org/DLResources

Create structured routines and procedures

Having clear and defined policies and procedures for classroom technology can help students use class time efficiently.

- Implement predictable procedures and practice them often
- Create a plan for troubleshooting technology issues
- Use visuals to reinforce technology instructions and procedures
- Organize assignments and resources in a consistent location, such as an LMS or classroom website

ISTE Standards for Educators 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.6

Provide student voice and choice

Students should select technology tools to assist them in collecting information, analyzing and synthesizing the material, and delivering it professionally.

- Allow students to choose how they will demonstrate their learning
- Use multimodality learning through technology integration
- Encourage student creativity using technology

ISTE Standards for Educators 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6

Promote student engagement

Technology can help teachers create a learning environment that fosters student choice, curiosity, and collaboration.

- Provide opportunities for interaction and collaboration with peers
- Allow students to review each other's work and provide feedback
- Encourage critical thinking and creativity by assigning rigorous, enriching, and academically extending activities

ISTE Standards for Educators 2.4, 2.5, 2.6

Transform feedback

Feedback and self-reflection are powerful tools for improving student learning experiences.

- Improve student learning by providing timely feedback
- Employ a variety of technology tools that allow for different modes of feedback (e.g., audio, verbal, written, video)
- Promote guided peer feedback that is focused and encourages deeper dialogue
- Allow students to reflect on their learning

ISTE Standards for Educators 2.6, 2.7

Utilize digital assessments

Create assessments that encourage students to think critically and allow for multiple ways to demonstrate their learning.

- Utilize technology tools for formative and summative assessments
- Gather data quickly to inform instruction and support student learning
- Create assessments that encourage students to utilize critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity

ISTE Standards for Educators 2.5, 2.6, 2.7

Address the needs of all learners

Utilize technology to help all students access and interact with content, make sense of new ideas and information, and demonstrate their learning.

- Use technology tools as needed to scaffold and support instruction
- Ensure all learning activities allow for differentiation, voice, and choice
- Teach students to utilize assistive technology and accessibility tools when appropriate

ISTE Standards for Educators 2.2, 2.3, 2.5, 2.7

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