



Digital Technology in the Classroom

INTRODUCTION

The goal of the Hanover School Division is to achieve Deeper Learning through dynamic learning environments, collaborative learning partnerships, current pedagogical practices, and leveraging digital technology.

Leveraging digital technology in our classrooms supports personalized learning, real time assessment, authentic rich learning contexts, and provides opportunity to connect families with their children's learning experiences. By using in-class digital technology, students have opportunity to explore beyond the walls of the classroom; share what they have learned; collaborate with others, and demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways.

EARLY YEARS (K - GRADE 4)

Kindergarten, Grade 1 & 2 classrooms in HSD are equipped with a digital projector, Apple TV and a pod of five iPads. Digital technology in an Early Years learning environment facilitates student engagement, provides additional means of assessment, and can assist children with unique learning needs. By fall 2017, these supportive digital technologies will be added to all Grade 3 & 4 classrooms.

MIDDLE YEARS (GRADES 5 - 8)

Grade 5 & 6 classrooms in HSD are furnished with a digital projector, Apple TV, and a pod of ten Chromebooks (laptops). Chromebooks can instantly be personalized for learning by each student or teacher, and are easy to manage, making them an ideal solution for bringing the power of the web to classrooms. Chromebooks also integrate seamlessly with G Suite for Education. By fall 2017, these supportive digital technologies will be added to all Grade 7 & 8 classrooms.



WHAT IS G SUITE FOR EDUCATION?

G Suite for Education (formerly Google Apps for Education) is a free web-based program for word processing, storage of files, spreadsheets, calendars, presentation tools, and is considered an extension of the Hanover School Division technology network. All HSD schools are presently using G Suite.

G Suite for Education enables students to collaboratively create, edit and share both files and websites for school-related projects. Examples of student use include showcasing class projects, building an electronic portfolio of school learning experiences, and working in small groups on presentations to share with others. G Suite on the HSD network is used for educational purposes only, and is not accessible by the public. Hanover School Division manages all student accounts, controls user permissions, has access to usage logs, reports, and has the ability to suspend service and/or accounts.



DOES G SUITE FOR EDUCATION INCLUDE EMAIL ACCOUNTS?

Yes. The G Suite service includes a password-protected email account for each student on our network. G Suite email accounts are managed and monitored by HSD (these are not standard Gmail accounts).

Early Years (K-4) students can send and receive email, but only within the Hanover School Division network - where both the sender and recipient have an HSD email address. ALL EXTERNAL EMAIL IS BLOCKED. Not all Early Years schools or grades will integrate email service into educational programming. Access to this service is managed at the school level.

Middle Years students (Gr. 5-8) will have expanded access of this email service that allows for the sending/receiving of internal and external email. This will allow for email communication between student and family.

Email service is to be used for educational purposes only. If used inappropriately, individual account access or service functionality may be limited. HSD will have full access to email accounts, therefore students and parents/guardians should have no expectation of privacy with respect to email content and data stored.



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IS INTERNET ACCESS BENEFICIAL FOR STUDENT LEARNING?

Yes. Internet access is beneficial for use in classroom activities, student research, and is an effective tool in the learning process. By providing controlled Internet access, students can engage in learning that supports in-class instruction and expands upon their learning experiences.

WILL MY CHILD'S INTERNET ACCESS BE MONITORED?

Yes. As a safeguard, student Internet usage is monitored and screened through HSD network filters. Students are also educated regarding online safety, and best practices of digital citizenship. School staff will do their utmost to ensure students arrive at appropriate websites.

WILL DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES REPLACE TRADITIONAL CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION?

No. Digital technologies used within HSD classrooms are supportive to the learning process, and not a replacement for teacher instruction. Leveraging these technologies will support the HSD Deeper Learning Plan in developing the eight core competencies of 'Our Kid'. To be a Learner, Critical Thinker, Communicator, Collaborator, Literate, Creative, and to exhibit good Citizenship and Character. By embedding these age-appropriate digital technologies into classroom practice, we accelerate, amplify, and add value to learning.

