

WICHITA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Technology at School: What Families Should Know

Kindergarten

We want you to know how your child uses technology at school. We want to work with you to help your child learn and grow.

Your Child's Device: Your child does not have their own device at school. The teacher uses a screen for short group lessons.

✓ What You Will See

- The teacher shows a short video, then children talk about what they saw and draw a picture.
- Children sing along with a counting song on the big screen while they stand up and move.
- The teacher takes the class on a virtual field trip, then children do a hands-on activity.

✗ What You Will NOT See

- Children sitting alone with a screen for a long time.
- Screens used to keep children busy or calm.
- Videos playing with no lesson or follow-up activity.

Ask Your Child

"What did you do at school today that was NOT on a screen?"

Talk About at Home

Talk about being kind to others, even when using a screen. Practice taking turns and putting screens away at home.

Building a Partnership

Want to know more about how technology is used in your child's class? Ask the teacher! They are happy to share what a typical day looks like.

Questions? Talk to your child's teacher or contact the school office.

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Technology at School: What Families Should Know

Grades 1–2

We want you to know how your child uses technology at school. We want to work with you to help your child learn and grow.

Your Child's Device: Your child shares an iPad with classmates. They use it during some lessons, not all day.

✓ What You Will See

- Children record themselves retelling a story in their own words.
- Children work with a partner to make a short digital book about a science topic.
- Children practice reading or math skills on an app the teacher chose, then do a hands-on activity.

✗ What You Will NOT See

- Children on screens for most of the day.
- Long stretches on apps with no teacher helping.
- Screens used as a reward for good behavior.

Ask Your Child

"What did you make or create on the iPad today?"

Talk About at Home

Talk about taking care of shared things. Practice asking before clicking on something new. Talk about when it feels good to take a break from screens.

Building a Partnership

Your child's teacher makes sure screen time is short, focused, and tied to learning. If something your child tells you does not sound right, please reach out. Your questions are always welcome.

Questions? Talk to your child's teacher or contact the school office.

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Technology at School: What Families Should Know

Grades 3–5

We want you to know how your child uses technology at school. We want to work with you to help your child learn and grow.

Your Child's Device: Your child shares an iPad with classmates. They use it more often now for research, writing, and projects.

✓ What You Will See

- Children research a topic, then build a project with pictures, writing, and their own voice.
- Children collect data from classmates, make a chart, and share what they found.
- Children learn about being safe online and what a “digital footprint” means.

✗ What You Will NOT See

- Children on a screen most of the day.
- Technology used when paper and pencil would work just as well.
- Children using AI tools on their own. (The teacher may show how AI works, but children do not use it alone.)

Ask Your Child

“Did you create something today, or did you mostly watch and click?”

Talk About at Home

Talk about keeping passwords safe. Ask about what they see online. Start talking about what AI is and how computers can make things that look real but are not.

Building a Partnership

At this age, your child is learning to be a creator, not just a user. Ask the teacher how you can build on these skills at home.

Questions? Talk to your child's teacher or contact the school office.

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Technology at School: What Families Should Know

Grades 6–8

We want you to know how your child uses technology at school. We want to work with you to help your child learn and grow.

Your Child's Device: Your child has their own laptop at school. It stays at school and does not come home.

✓ What You Will See

- Students write and edit each other's work using a real writing process.
- Students research a topic, check if their sources are trustworthy, and share what they found.
- Students learn how AI works, when to use it, and when not to. They talk about honesty in their schoolwork.

✗ What You Will NOT See

- Laptops open all day with no breaks.
- Students watching videos with nothing to do afterward.
- Free time on the computer with no learning goal.

Ask Your Child

"When did your teacher ask you to close your laptop today? What did you do instead?"

Talk About at Home

Talk about what they post and share online. Ask about cyberbullying. Talk about healthy screen habits and when to take a break. Ask what they are learning about AI.

Building a Partnership

Middle school is when children build habits around technology. The school is teaching them structure. You can support this by asking questions and setting screen boundaries at home too.

Questions? Talk to your child's teacher or contact the school office.

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Technology at School: What Families Should Know

Grades 9–12

We want you to know how your child uses technology at school. We want to work with you to help your child learn and grow.

Your Child's Device: Your child has their own laptop at school and takes it home.

✓ What You Will See

- Students work together on real-world projects using shared tools.
- Students create podcasts, videos, or websites as part of their learning.
- Students learn to use AI tools the right way—knowing when AI helps and when it does not.

✗ What You Will NOT See

- Technology replacing the teacher.
- Students using AI to do their work for them without thinking.
- Screens used all day with no time for non-tech learning.

Ask Your Child

"How did you decide when to use technology today and when not to?"

Talk About at Home

Talk about their digital reputation. Discuss how what they post now can follow them. Talk about using AI honestly. Ask about their plans for college or career and how technology fits in.

Building a Partnership

Your teen is getting ready for the adult world. The school teaches responsible tech use. You can help by having real conversations about digital choices.

Questions? Talk to your child's teacher or contact the school office.