

TECHNOLOGY TIPS FOR HOME

In these extraordinary times, technology offers kids a necessary way to connect with peers and maintain connections. This consistency of community is arguably as important now as providing consistent academic routines. We have spent years developing a thoughtful approach to technology use at Mark Day School based on research and best practices. This is not a time to set aside these learnings altogether. Instead, it is time to use and adapt what we know to support our kids and each other in thinking differently about how technology can be used. With this in mind, here are some guidelines to help your family during this time.

Manage your time online and make sure to still enjoy other activities

Always respect family rules about what you watch, play or listen to online

Respect yourself and others online

Keep your passwords private and only share them with parents/guardians/teachers

Do not talk or text about people online or share what people say without permission

Always tell an adult if you see or read anything online that makes you uncomfortable

Your information (address, phone number) is private--never give it out online

Say it online in distance learning only if you would say it to your teacher in person

Communicate what you want to say only if it is KIND, NECESSARY and HELPFUL

Help parents/guardians use their technology:)

Only use apps approved by parents/guardians/teachers

Only use technology with parent/guardian permission

Leave any online activity that feels unsafe and never share pictures of yourself or others online without permission

As we all work to help our kids stay connected and safe, we will be relying on technologies that may be new to them. Tools like Zoom, Facetime, and group chats can be wonderful ways to facilitate connections. A good rule of thumb is to approach online playdates the same way you would approach in-person playdates.

- Parents should always be present when students are online with friends in any form
- Smaller groups of 2-3 are more successful than large groups
- Parents should regularly check all accounts and conversations that young kids are in
- Parents should know all the apps that kids are using (www.commonsensemedia.org)
- When in doubt reach out to other parents and the school