



Learning With Technology: Supporting Education at Home

Parent Packet

Technology Vision

Instructional practice and student learning shifts when an instructional program can achieve personalized learning. The flexibility to provide countless learning opportunities is enhanced with the implementation of a 1:1 instructional program. These are driven by national technology standards and the district's graduate profile. OrangeUSD is dedicated to these ideas and continues to provide access and equitably for all students through increased academic achievement and preparing students to be leaders of tomorrow.



As the district increases access to technology for all students it is important that digital literacy is increased as well. The district utilizes the Common Sense Media Curriculum in order to support our students and families in understanding safe and effective uses of technology as they engage in the learning and beyond the classroom.

Use the resources below to learn more about this extensive program offered within the district.



<http://orangeusd.org/edtech> - Find information on how the district is supporting instruction through technology at the educational technology website.



<http://bit.ly/DCLOrangeUSD> - Discover the process teachers and administrators use to support digital literacy in and out of the classroom in the Orange USD digital citizenship program supported by Common Sense Media.



<http://bit.ly/CSMDigSchool> - To show the district's dedication to helping students think critically and use technology responsibly for learning, creating, and participating schools can earn a Digital Schools Certification from Common Sense Media.

School-Readiness Boosters for Kids with Learning and Attention Issues

Many aspects of school can be tricky for kids with special needs, but these tools can help. By [Christine Elgersma](#)

For kids with special needs, the idea of heading back to school is both fun and fraught. Keeping up with academics, staying on top of tasks, and managing relationships each offer challenges and opportunities. Apps can help kids practice skills — from reading and math to making friends — in a supportive environment. Check out these tools to see which ones might help boost your kid's success, and explore our [guide](#), which features even more resources.



Beginner

Kid in Story Book Maker, 4+. Use this app to help prepare kids for all kinds of situations by placing a picture of your kid right in a virtual social setting. It's especially good for kids on the autism spectrum or with anxiety, but it's great for all kids who might benefit from a little preview of what's to come when they get to school.

Kiko's Thinking Time - Cognitive Training for Children's Brains, 4+. With this adaptive set of games and exercises, kids practice a variety of skills such as spatial reasoning, short-term memory, and focus. Developed with the help of neuroscientists and with research about executive function, it targets very specific skills in a kid-friendly way.

Dexteria Dots - Get in Touch with Math, 5+. Visual cues and adaptive activities make this unique math-practice app a good choice for a wide range of learners. Though it mostly deals with basic concepts, it can help kids build fluency as they move on to more complex math.

Morning Kids, 6+. This personalized task list helps kids with everyday routines such as getting ready for school or preparing for bed. Kids with attention issues or executive functioning challenges will love assigning their own pictures and sound effects to each activity and taking ownership of the process.

Intermediate

DragonBox Algebra 5+, 5+. This app presents algebraic concepts in a unique way and is good for a range of ages. Though it plays like a game, kids can begin to understand the abstract concept of “solving for x ,” which can be difficult for linear thinkers.

Dyslexia Quest, 7+. Visual memory and phonological awareness (understanding the sounds that make words) are critical for reading, and this app uses games to help assess where kids might be struggling in these areas. Not only do parents get detailed data, they also can use the app to help bolster those weaker areas.

Choiceworks Calendar, 8+. Creating a visual map of routines can help kids, especially those with executive function challenges, keep track of what they should do next. With personalization and various ways to view a schedule, kids can take more responsibility for what they need to do and ease anxiety they might have around changes and transitions.

If...The Emotional IQ Game, 8+. As kids play this adventure game, they'll get lots of positive messages and practice around social-emotional skills. Because the learning content is fully baked into the game, kids will have fun while they play through the story.

Advanced

ModMath, 7+. ModMath helps kids input problems onto virtual graph paper and lines them up correctly, and it's especially helpful as math becomes more complicated and equations have more components. For kids with dysgraphia (writing challenges such as handwriting and getting ideas on paper) or other special needs that might make writing math problems difficult, this app can help eliminate errors that are a result of not being able to write the problem neatly by hand.

ConversationBuilderTeen, 13+. Featuring all kinds of tween-/teen-centered topics including sarcasm, bullying, and sex, kids can practice choosing appropriate responses with virtual peers. Parents can customize the topics and specifics of the conversations to really target the areas in which a kid needs to practice.

Popplet, 13+. For kids who have trouble getting started on projects or papers, this tool can help them make visual maps and organize their ideas. Kids can also use it to collaborate on projects with others and incorporate different kinds of media, which is helpful for visual learners.

Remember the Milk, 13+. Keeping track of assignments, after-school activities, and social engagements can be difficult, especially for kids with attention and executive function issues. This app helps kids break long-term projects into chunks, set alerts, and prioritize tasks to decrease the chances of getting overwhelmed.

Reflex Math and 9 More Free Math Games for Kids

Flex your math muscles with these free apps and sites. By [Christine Elgersma](#)

With so many math skills to master, kids may crave some variety. Mixing up their practice with fun games and unique approaches keeps them interested — which keeps them learning. But there's no reason to break the bank. Plenty of high-quality apps and sites address different types of math — for free. Luckily, 0 plus 0 still equals 0.



Bedtime Math, 3+

If you want to make casual math a daily family practice, then this one's for you. Each day, you can read a brief story and work through a math question with your kids. Since you can adjust the difficulty, it works for kids of all ages.

Gracie & Friends Jungle Gym, 4+

Recognizing quantity without counting (called subitizing) is a great step toward math fluency. *Gracie & Friends* helps little kids practice this very specific — and important — math skill.

Tiggly Chef: Preschool Math Cooking Game, 4+

Kids can practice counting and simple addition either using their fingers or the manipulatives that are available for purchase. For kids who need a little more sensory input or movement, using the Tiggly toys might boost learning.

Todo Math, 5+

Through math missions, kids practice a wide range of math concepts at different ability levels. Because this app was designed with learning differences in mind, it's a great choice for kids with special needs.

CyberChase Shape Quest, 6+

For kids who have some knowledge of shapes already, this app lets them apply their learning — and build spatial-reasoning skills as a bonus. There's even an augmented reality game to add a little novelty to the math puzzles.

MyBlee Math, 6+

Before using, kids can customize their level for grades K-6. This app's best feature is the feedback kids get for incorrect answers, and kids can use it for up to 10 minutes each week for free.

Reflex Math: Math Fact Fluency, 7+

Building fact fluency can help kids on their way to tackling more complex mathematical concepts. Reflex Math offers a wealth of games covering addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. They're best for kids who already understand the basic operations and just need practice.

Sushi Monster, 7+

Kids get targeted addition and multiplication practice along with fun graphics and sound effects. The feedback is somewhat limited, so it's probably best for kids who already understand the concepts.

Wuzzit Trouble, 9+

A fun story about freeing little creatures propels this game. Kids practice the skill of integer partitioning, which is splitting whole numbers into parts or combining numbers into a larger whole number. As kids advance, the puzzles get more challenging, so kids should be ready to think carefully.

Math Snacks, 10+

A combination of videos and games, this site (with its accompanying **apps**) is a bit like **Schoolhouse Rock!** and is meant to appeal to kids who aren't very keen on math. Ratio, proportion, rate, and scale are the main focus, though fractions, decimals, and coordinate graphing are also included.

16 Apps for Kids Who Think Reading Is Boring

There are lots of ways to read: Some kids love comic books and **graphic novels**, while others yearn for the next 900-page novel in a **favorite series**. Your kid may tell you reading is boring, but they *are* reading *something*, even if it's articles on social media. Whether it's just not your kid's jam or getting through a book is **truly difficult**, there are apps that are innovative and involve reading. Sometimes little kids just need a wide selection to find the perfect thing, and bigger kids are often into the offbeat or inventive. Others might love a game with reading built right in. Take your pick from these apps, and see if you can turn any spark of interest into a wildfire.



Epic! - Unlimited Books for Kids

✓ age 4+ ★★★★★

Diverse, searchable library of 20,000+ kids' books, videos.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android, Fire phone, Kindle Fire (2016)



uKlloo

✓ age 5+ ★★★★★

Scavenger hunt makes reading fun; user can customize levels.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android (2015)



Farfaria Storybooks - Library of Children's Books and Read Along With Me

✓ age 4+ ★★★★★

Endless ebook library offers options, no interactivity.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android, Fire phone, Kindle Fire (2012)



Peter and the Wolf in Hollywood - Moviebook

✓ age 6+ ★★★★★

Cool visuals, great music, amusing story update a classic.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad (2016)



Homer: Kids Learn to Read App

✓ age 4+ ★★★★★

Personalized early literacy program chock-full of choices.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad (2016)



SwapTales: Leon!

✓ age 6+ ★★★★★

Use the power of words to solve puzzles and change a story.

Devices: iPad (2016)



LeVar Burton Kids Skybrary

✓ age 4+ ★★★★★

Classic reborn as fee-based e-library with great selection.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android, Kindle Fire (2012)



Amazon Rapids

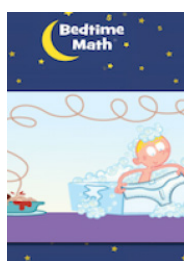
✓ age 8+ ★★★★★

Library of accessible text message-style stories.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android, Fire phone, Kindle Fire (2016)

19 Apps and Sites for Kids Who Hate Math

Worksheets. Problems on the board. Showing your work. Some common math problems don't even involve numbers — just frustration. Though many classrooms are trying new, exciting approaches to mathematical thinking and arithmetic, it still doesn't compute for some kids. Thankfully, there are some **truly fun tech tools** that can bolster kids' skills as they play a game. Since the best apps offer experiences that can only exist on-screen, some on this list let kids **apply math concepts** in fantastical settings or to real-world problems. Others give kids a new way to see numbers and how they relate to each other. Sometimes kids just need outside help, and there's an app for that, too. Choose an app that works for your kid's age and skill level, and watch the success multiply.



Bedtime Math

✓ age 3+ ★★★★★

Daily problem can help kids make math a habit.

URL: <http://bedtimemath.org/> (2012)



DragonBox Big Numbers

✓ age 6+ ★★★★★

Clever math resource-management game requires some patience.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android (2016)



Tiggly Chef: Preschool Math Cooking Game

✓ age 4+ ★★★★★

Wild recipes add up to math fun, with hybrid toys or not.

Devices: iPad, Android, Fire phone, Kindle Fire (2015)



Jump! A Game of Numbers

✓ age 6+ ★★★★★

Save the Snortles! Learn multiplication along the way.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad (2016)



DragonBox Algebra 5+

✓ age 5+ ★★★★★

Kids learn concepts of algebra in stellar game app.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android, Kindle Fire, Apps for Windows, Windows Phone (2012)



Odd Squad: Blob Chase

✓ age 6+ ★★★★★

Capture blobs and problem-solve in fun, leveled games.

Devices: iPad, Android, Kindle Fire (2015)



Twelve a Dozen

✓ age 5+ ★★★★★

Heroine saves the day with math in lovely, fun platformer.

Devices: iPad (2014)



Prodigy Math Game

✓ age 6+ ★★★★★

Fantasy game helps kids become math wizards.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad (2017)



Montessori Math: Multiplication

✓ age 7+ ★★★★★

Well-rounded app helps kids master multiplication.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android (2014)



Mystery Math Town

✓ age 7+ ★★★★★

Great math practice with fun story, entertaining characters.

Devices: iPad (2013)



Motion Math: Cupcake!

✓ age 8+ ★★★★★

Sweet bakery sim serves up adaptive learning, lots of fun.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad (2015)



Slice Fractions

✓ age 8+ ★★★★★

Super fun slicing app presents key concepts in engaging way.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android, Fire phone, Kindle Fire (2014)



Wuzzit Trouble

✓ age 9+ ★★★★★

Fun, engaging gear puzzler boosts problem-solving skills.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android (2014)



Math Snacks

✓ age 10+ ★★★★★

Bite-size but meaty collection of entertaining math games.

URL: <http://www.mathsnacks.com/> (2013)



Mathemagics -- Mental Math Tricks

✓ age 12+ ★★★★★

Terrific tool for learning speedy math tricks.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad (2012)

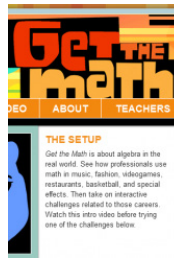


Sector 33

✓ age 12+ ★★★★★

Challenging NASA game tests math, problem-solving skills.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android (2014)

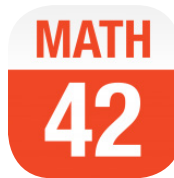


Get the Math

✓ age 13+ ★★★★★

Real people, real problems, real-world algebra solutions.

URL: <http://www.thirteen.org/get-the-math/> (2013)



Math 42

✓ age 13+ ★★★★★

Incredible step-by-step solving and quizzing tool.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad (2017)



Yup - homework help with Math & Chemistry Tutors

✓ age 13+ ★★★★★

Live tutors to help tweens and teens with math and science.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android (2016)



Bookout — Reading made better

✓ age 8+ ★★★★★

Track how much you're reading, save comments, view stats.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad (2017)



Weirdwood Manor

✓ age 8+ ★★★★★

Solve puzzles, explore rich visuals in cool storybook.

Devices: iPad (2016)

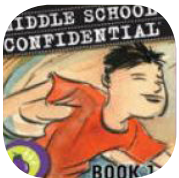


Word Runners - Touch Press Games

✓ age 9+ ★★★★★

Words come alive, kids foil obstacles in fun story puzzles.

Devices: iPad (2017)



Middle School Confidential 1: Be Confident in Who You Are

✓ age 11+ ★★★★★

Graphic novel teaches kids to feel good about themselves.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android, Kindle Fire, Nook HD (2011)



DEVICE 6

✓ age 12+ ★★★★★

Inventive, interactive story puzzler has thrills and chills.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad (2016)



Mission X: Hidden Island

✓ age 13+ ★★★★★

Choose your path in this OK, creepy adventure story.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android (2017)



LongStory

✓ age 14+ ★★★★★

LGBTQ-friendly sim navigates teen relationships and drama.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android (2016)



Tap - Chat Stories & Funny Texts by Wattpad

✓ age 16+ ★★★★★

Fiction in text message form with mature content.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android (2017)

Apps That Act Like Math and Science Tutors for Homework Help

Sometimes when your kid needs **help with homework**, it's easy to lend a hand. Other times, not so much. When research or reading is involved, it might be a little easier to figure things out, but more **advanced math and science** — especially if it's done differently than when we were in school — can be tricky. If a live tutor is more of a commitment than you're looking for, consider trying one of the apps on this list to get your kid that extra assist on demand. Since some of these tools give up the answer to problems pretty easily, it's a good idea to supervise to prevent copying and promote actual learning.



Mathspace

✓ age 11+ ★★★★★

Step-by-step solutions help kids master math, for a price.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android (2017)



Got It Study - Homework Help

✓ age 13+ ★★★★★

Snap a picture, get homework help in math and science.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad (2017)



Photomath - Camera Calculator

✓ age 11+ ★★★★★

Point, scan, solve support tool; watch for cheating.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android (2017)



Mathway

✓ age 13+ ★★★★★

Subscription tool gives solutions with steps; kids can copy.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android, Fire phone, Kindle Fire (2015)



yHomework - Math Solver

✓ age 11+ ★★★★★

Solve math problems, see process, pay for extended use.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android (2016)



Socratic - Scan homework, get answers and explanations

✓ age 13+ ★★★★★

Instant homework help with resources; watch for cheating.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad (2016)



Khan Academy

✓ age 5+ ★★★★★

Excellent tutorials on math, humanities, and more, for free.

URL: <http://www.khanacademy.org> (2013)



Yup - homework help with Math & Chemistry Tutors

✓ age 13+ ★★★★★

Live tutors to help tweens and teens with math and science.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android (2016)

Teen Math Apps

For the most part, teens are **beyond basic math drills** and into more abstract concepts and operations. And at some point, it gets harder for many parents to help with homework. If your teen sometimes needs algebra assistance or geometry gems of wisdom, these apps might offer the **boost they need**. Since several can offer up answers, it's a good idea for parents to monitor to make sure the app isn't doing all the work.

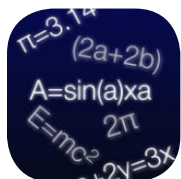


DragonBox Algebra 12+

✓ age 12+ ★★★★★

Fantastic approach to learning algebra through gameplay.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android, Kindle Fire, Apps for Windows, Windows Phone (2014)



6284 Calc

✓ age 13+ ★★★★★

Helpful for quick math answers; carries risk of cheating.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad (2016)



Algebra Touch

✓ age 13+ ★★★★★

Rearrange, solve polynomials for procedural understanding.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Apps for Windows (2016)



Desmos Graphing Calculator

✓ age 13+ ★★★★★

Advanced graphing calculator includes powerful features.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android, Chromebook (2017)

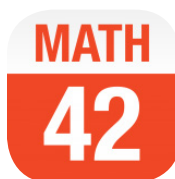


Incredible Numbers by Professor Ian Stewart

✓ age 13+ ★★★★★

Beautiful exploration of math beyond classroom; dense text.

Devices: iPad (2015)



Math 42

✓ age 13+ ★★★★★

Incredible step-by-step solving and quizzing tool.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad (2017)



Mathway

✓ age 13+ ★★★★★

Subscription tool gives solutions with steps; kids can copy.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android, Fire phone, Kindle Fire (2015)



Socratic - Scan homework, get answers and explanations

✓ age 13+ ★★★★★

Instant homework help with resources; watch for cheating.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad (2016)



Yup - homework help with Math & Chemistry Tutors

✓ age 13+ ★★★★★

Live tutors to help tweens and teens with math and science.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android (2016)

Homework Help Apps

When a kid needs some help with homework, internet search results can be totally overwhelming. Instead, these apps are targeted tools kids can use for reference, idea organization, and more. With fun refreshers, catchy pneumonics, and math tutoring, this list can get your kid over that homework hump. And if staying organized and on track is a struggle, check out our [time-management](#) apps!



Easy Spelling Aid + Translator & Dyslexia Support

✓ age 5+ ★★★★★

Easily converts speech to text, translates 30 languages.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android, Kindle Fire (2018)



Audubon Birds - A Field Guide to North American Birds

✓ age 8+ ★★★★★

Invaluable reference tool for North American bird-watchers.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android, Kindle Fire (2010)



Number Line, by the Math Learning Center

✓ age 5+ ★★★★★

Visual tool to solve math equations best with background.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad (2016)



Britannica Kids: Rainforests

✓ age 8+ ★★★★★

Interactive tool with games, videos, and lots of learning.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad (2011)



Khan Academy

✓ age 5+ ★★★★★

Excellent tutorials on math, humanities, and more, for free.

URL: <http://www.khanacademy.org> (2013)



Geo Walk HD - 3D World Fact Book

✓ age 8+ ★★★★★

Brilliantly designed app about Earth's people, places, more.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad (2011)



MyScript Calculator - Handwriting Calculator

✓ age 5+ ★★★★★

Instantly solves handwritten math equations; watch cheating.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad (2017)



Science360 for iPad

✓ age 8+ ★★★★★

Amazing free app sparks imagination and learning.

Devices: iPad (2011)



Flocabulary: Educational Hip-Hop for K-12

✓ age 6+ ★★★★★

Catchy hip-hop songs and fun videos for memorable learning.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android (2017)



Star Walk - 5 Star Astronomy Guide

✓ age 8+ ★★★★★

In-depth, detailed, and beautiful astronomy app.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad (2010)



Arloon Geometry

✓ age 10+ ★★★★★

Shape up spatial skills with augmented reality tool.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Windows Phone (2015)



Arloon Solar System

✓ age 10+ ★★★★★

Use augmented reality to explore a 3-D solar system.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android (2015)



Earth Primer

✓ age 10+ ★★★★★

Interactive textbook powerful tool, but pricey.

Devices: iPad, Mac (2015)



American Revolution Interactive Timeline for iPad

✓ age 10+ ★★★★★

Tap, drag, and zoom with objects that bring history to life.

Devices: iPad (2015)



Shapes - 3D Geometry Learning

✓ age 10+ ★★★★★

Zoom, rotate, and fold solid figures with elegant math tool.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android (2015)



Curious - the game of lifelong learning

✓ age 13+ ★★★★★

Learn stuff, earn smarty points in only a few minutes a day.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad (2017)



Desmos Graphing Calculator

✓ age 10+ ★★★★★

Advanced graphing calculator includes powerful features.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android, Chromebook (2017)



Got It Study - Homework Help

✓ age 13+ ★★★★★

Snap a picture, get homework help in math and science.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad (2017)



Literary Analysis Guide

✓ age 13+ ★★★★★

Bare-bones literary resource with examples and explanations.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android (2015)



Mathway

✓ age 13+ ★★★★★

Subscription tool gives solutions with steps; kids can copy.

Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android, Fire phone, Kindle Fire (2015)