

Friends School Haverford Technology Curriculum

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Overall Goal

Friends School Haverford aims to have a technology curriculum that builds a comprehensive set of computing skills cumulatively over all grade levels. The curriculum prepares students to use technology effectively as a tool for gathering and communicating information. FSH endeavors to use technology to build confidence in and empower all students.

First and Second Grades

First and second graders are in the computer lab once a week for 30 minutes. During the year, they will learn many software programs that will enhance curriculum in the classroom. The goal of the technology curriculum at this level is to build students' confidence in working with computers so they may learn to communicate in new and different ways.

Students will practice typing, use a variety of presentation programs, work on painting and drawing, and play educational language arts and math games with supervision. Second grade students will also practice math facts regularly with the online program First in Math.

Third and Fourth Grades

In third and fourth grades, students take more responsibility for their work on the computer and for technology in general. Third graders are in the computer lab once a week for 45 minutes, while fourth graders spend 40 minutes in the lab twice a week. The jump in time between 2nd and 3rd grades, and again between 3rd and 4th grades, means that they can work on more projects and use more programs than they have in previous years.

Students will explore a variety of online programs that enable them to communicate in different ways. They will also learn to use programs that were introduced in earlier grades, like Inspiration, Tux Paint, Microsoft Word, and PowerPoint, in more detail. In third and fourth grades, the technology curriculum will enhance the language arts, math, social studies, and science curricula. The goal is for students in these grades to build confidence in using a variety of programs on the computer as well as keyboard shortcuts, server folders, and peripheral devices like cameras and flash drives. In addition, students will practice typing and First in Math regularly.

Fifth and Sixth Grades

Fifth and sixth grade students come to the computer lab twice a week for 40 minutes each time. As the oldest users of technology at Friends School Haverford, students

are expected to become comfortable and efficient users so that they can take risks as well as help others solve problems on the computer. Students will learn more advanced formatting within a variety of online programs and software. While they will utilize many of the same programs they have in previous years, such as Inspiration, Tux Paint, Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, the goal is for the students to gain enough experience with varied programs so that they can select the specific program that would be best to communicate the information appropriate to their projects.

The technology curriculum will enhance the language arts, math, social studies, and science curricula. We will work on online research and citing techniques, as well as discuss plagiarism as it applies to using information found on the Internet. In addition to presentation programs and word processing to display research from these curricular areas, students will work with graphing and data, audio recording, digital photography, and website development. Students will build proficiency with using keyboard shortcuts, moving files between server folders, and using peripheral devices like cameras and flash drives.

Later in the year, students in fifth grade will dissect an old computer to learn more about how computers work. Students in sixth grade will explore robotics and programming in a collaboration with science and Bryn Mawr college department of computer science. In addition, all fifth and sixth grade students will practice typing and First in Math regularly in the lab.

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