NAVIGATING TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT
FOR REMOTE LEARNING

Helping your child with their technology needs at home can be confusing and time consuming—different programs, platforms, and logins can frustrate students and families. This guide shares resources and defines a few frequently used terms to help families navigate technology together.

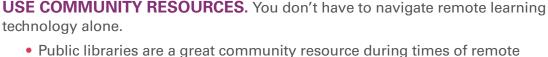## Start Making The Most Out Of Virtual Learning Tools.

BUILD POSITIVE TECHNOLOGY HABITS WITH YOUR CHILD. We spend many hours a day looking at a screen. Help your child build positive technology habits by discussing:

- When to take breaks,
- What scam emails and websites look like, and
- How to avoid inappropriate websites.

CREATE A LIST OF TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES. Organized by subject and content area.

- Write down the username and password for each online platform your child uses to make it easier to access.
- Ask your child's teacher for recommendations of websites or resources your child can use to practice skills.

USE COMMUNITY RESOURCES. You don't have to navigate remote learning technology alone.

- Public libraries are a great community resource during times of remote learning. Check with your closest public library to see if internet connections and devices, such as mobile hotspots and drive-up access, are available for student use.
- Other community organizations, like faith-based groups or nonprofits devoted to supporting students and families, may also be able to provide support.

1. What technology tools, resources, and apps do you recommend for my child?

2. What should my child do if they finish their work quickly?

3. What should my child do if they are struggling with content?

4. What online programs/platforms will you be using this year, and how can I support my child in using these programs/platforms?

5. What is the school's student privacy policy?

6. How is the school teaching digital citizenship?

Tech terms to know:

Adaptive learning: a technology-powered method of customizing resources and learning activities for students. *Example: Khan Academy*

Dashboard: an online place where information about student learning, like grades and attendance, is organized and displayed.

Digital citizenship: teaching students how to responsibly, effectively, and respectfully use the internet and engage with others online.

Hybrid learning: when educators replace in-person class time with online teaching and learning— this can look like alternating between learning from home and learning in the school building, while blended learning is adding online learning to existing classroom teaching.

Learning Management System (LMS): the technology platform through which students access online courses. *Examples: Canvas, Schoology, Seesaw, EdApp, or Edmodo*

Synchronous learning happens when students learn from their teacher at the same time. **Asynchronous learning** is when students complete tasks independently and according to their own schedule.

Videoconferencing: enables learners to make video calls individually or as groups; often includes a "chat" function where students can share with text. *Examples: Zoom, Google Meet, or Microsoft Teams*

Virtual learning environment: an online education platform that feels like a physical classroom because it includes online texts, exams, assignments, discussion boards, and other learning tools. *Example: Google Classroom*

For more remote and online learning definitions, see the Aurora Institute's Online Learning Definitions Project.

Additional Resources:

- Parent & Family Digital Learning Guide (USED's Office of Educational Technology) An overview of the benefits of digital learning and how families can enable digital learning at home.

- Using Technology to Support Learning at Home (EDC's Center for Children and Technology) An overview of how to get started with technology at home, how to build healthy habits, and what to look for when searching for educational apps.

- The Parent's Guide to Educational Technology (ConnectSafely) An overview of how students and teachers are using technology with questions and talking points throughout to discuss educational technology with your child and their teacher.

If you have any questions, please reach out to rethink@ncpublicschools.gov

North Carolina Department of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

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