

Apps That Make Life Easier



Dropbox

Dropbox is a cloud-based file-synchronization tool that allows you to access your photos and files on any internet-enabled device. Thanks to Dropbox, I've stopped using jump drives. Free for 2G of storage space.

Evernote



Evernote is another cloud-based note-taking and syncing service. You can take "notes" in the app, and then Evernote stores them in the cloud so you can access them from anywhere. Your notes can contain audio, text, and images.

Sticky Notes



I love these colorful notes that help keep me organized all day long. For some reason, putting my “to do” list on digital sticky notes helps me get through the endless tasks of the day. Customizable fonts, note colors and backgrounds make it all the better.

ClassDojo



This real-time classroom management tool helps improve behavior and student engagement in a flash. You can set it up for individual students in your class or for the whole group to track expectations for group norms.

Rover



Rover is a free educational browser that allows you to stream flash content to your iPad. Through Rover, you can access Raz-Kids, BrainPOP, Starfall, and many other sites that do not operate correctly through Safari.

Flashcards



Create and save your own flashcards for any subject area or use any of the sets that others have created. Students can create cards to help them study for upcoming tests and quizzes.

Show Me



I love this virtual whiteboard for helping students with challenging concepts. Write on your iPad using your finger or stylus and audio record your voice, and you can immediately play back a tutorial that can be used over and over. Great to use with students who have been absent and missed original explanations and examples.

Common Core



All of the Common Core State Standards are at your fingertips on this easy to use app with search capabilities. Includes math and language arts standards for K–12.

Language Arts

Running Record Calculator



Doing my running records is easier than ever with this app. The free version that I use shows the student's reading rate, percentage of accuracy, and self-correction ratio with the push of a button. The \$2.99 version allows you to do an audio recording that you can flag and come back to for further study.



Kidblog

I love using this app for student-generated reading responses. Aimed at elementary and middle school students, it is so easy to use that my kids were blogging within minutes of its being set up. For privacy and safety, students' blogs can only be viewed by the teacher and classmates.

Pixntell



This is a great storytelling app. Students can use their own photos or those from the web along with their recorded voice to create a personalized video that's ready to share. The free version allows you to use four images, but you can add more with the paid version.

Storia



Storia is an e-reader app that works as your digital classroom library. I now purchase e-books monthly to add to my virtual library and student enthusiasm has never been higher for reading time! This app includes audio/visual dictionaries for lower and upper ELL and has highlighting and note-taking capabilities. You receive five free books with your first download.

Fry Words



Fry Words includes the 1000 most common words used for teaching reading, writing, and spelling. The words are broken up into sets of ten each.

Toontastic



This app is designed to walk students through the storytelling process of choosing a scene, climax, setting, conflict, and characters. Students even choose music to match the characters' emotions and create a digital storytelling video that is shared with authentic global audiences on the online channel ToonTube.

Bluster



Students build their vocabulary while they battle the elements. This has different beginning levels which makes it great for easy differentiation.

Grammaropolis



This app has been called Schoolhouse Rock for the 21st Century. The parts of speech are animated characters whose personalities match their function from the sly pronoun always trying to replace the noun to the conjunction who just wants everyone to get along. Students earn badges after following a curriculum map that includes songs, books, videos, and quizzes.

Mad Libs



The classic word game comes to the iPad. My students practice their parts of speech and stretch their vocabularies loving the funny payoff that is generated at the end.

Math

Mathmateer



This is a huge favorite in my room because students can customize their rockets with each successful math mission. Missions include number sense, time, money, geometry, computation, and square roots. Free

Sushi Monster



Strengthen reasoning strategies for whole number addition and multiplication by helping monsters make a target sum or product. Earn points with each correct answer, but watch out for distractions! To be successful, plan ahead and strategically select numbers from the sushi counter. Free

Scootpad



This app allows students to proactively work on both math and reading skills related to the Common Core. Teachers can fully personalize the learning path for their students to meet their specific needs and track student progress in real time on a teacher dashboard.

Singapore Math



This free Singapore Math app uses signature Singapore Math methods that focus on problem solving and reasoning in a fun, interactive way. Other grades available.

Social Studies

Google Earth



Put the world in
your students'
hands with this app.
Great app for virtual
field trips.

TourWrist



This app makes your iPad a 360-degree portal to just about anyplace you would like to go. Great for virtual reports and field trips. A crowd gathers around the iPad everytime this app is activated.

Stack the States



This educational game helps students learn state capitals, shapes, geographic locations, flags, and more. It also teaches the comparative size differences of the states as students attempt to stack them to reach the goal line. I use the free lite version in my classroom although you unlock quite a few features with 99 cents.

Science

Amazing Alex



This is a physics-based thinking game that students love. Casey has a houseful of toys that students set up to create an elaborate Rube Goldberg device. I love that there is more than one way to solve any puzzle. It was formerly an app named Casey's Contraptions until it was purchased by the makers of Angry Birds. That alone should tell you a bit about its addictiveness for students and sometimes their teacher! 99¢

For Reports and Presentations

Prezi



Prezi allows your students to turn out slide-style presentations with flair. With a little modeling they can easily add text, images, and animations to share what they have learned about any given topic.

Face Talk



The possibilities are endless with this app. Make still photos and images talk using this app along with your voice recording. Easy enough for an elementary student to use. Imagine having a raccoon narrate his own animal report.

Pic Collage



Have your students create collage-style posters for their reports and presentations.