

Valor Christian School International

Technology

At VCSI we recognize the tension between the need to educate students in the use of 21st century technology and the risks and challenges of unfettered access to online technology. We believe that it is critical that students leave High School not only with the 21st century skills necessary to be successful in college and beyond, but also the understanding and self discipline to use the technology in constructive and edifying ways.

To help accomplish this VCSI has a tiered approach to technology use on our campus.

K-2nd grade:

In these grades teachers will model the use of technology in the classroom offering children access to practice with technology in very specific teacher guided activities. Students may interact with online content as a class on the big screen while the teacher operates the device or they may be using our mobile lab to begin building typing skills or to access specific content guided by the teacher.

3rd-4th grade:

Our middle elementary grades teachers will help students use technology in guided activities that help students understand how to use online sources to find safe credible information. Students will use our mobile technology lab to begin building research skills and may work to complete assignments using the devices. However, technology will still be used with close teacher guidance and supervision.

5th grade

In fifth grade we will work with students to combine their previous experience into the idea of good digital citizenship. As students enter middle school and beyond they will become not only consumers of online content, but creators of it. This is an exciting challenge and a big responsibility. We as educators are committed to helping students become ready both in terms of skills and in terms of habits and understanding. Fifth graders will be learning about digital citizenship through the Common Sense Media's digital citizenship curriculum. Through this program students will learn how to make good decisions about what to access and what to post online, as well as, when and where technology use is appropriate.

During Fifth grade we will help students transition into our "bring your own device" (BYOD) program. In the fall of Fifth grade students will continue to use our mobile computer lab as we continue to build skills. In winter term, after Christmas break, students may begin to bring their own devices to use when the class is working with technology. Students will not be permitted to use their devices without teacher permission and supervision. Beginning Spring trimester (March 27, 2017) we strongly encourage our fifth graders to bring their devices to use in class on assignments and activities.

6th - 8th grade:

In the middle school, students will be transitioning to using technology more independently to do both class work and homework. Access to a computer will be an important resource for communication, research and completing

assignments. Our sixth, seventh, and eighth graders will participate in our BYOD program and teachers and staff will expect students to have access to their device at home and at school.

Our middle school teachers will continue to work with the Common Sense Media Digital Citizenship curriculum, helping students understand constructive and appropriate usage of devices. Students will continue to practice safe habits and using technology under supervision.