

- **PowerSchool Learning:** This platform can work by itself or on top of Google Classroom to give you more options and tools, such as an integrated grade book and the specific compatibility with a lot of different devices—making it great for a BYOD framework.
- **Sophia for Teachers:** This is a lesser-known content management system that purports to help you track student progress with built-in analytics—and also helps you teach with student grouping and quizzing features.

Tools for Screen-Casting and Sharing

For any kind of remote learning situation or even just for the proper documentation of 1-1 computing classes early on, it's a good idea to learn how to record your lectures and presentations effectively. Taking a high-quality screencast of what you're projecting before the students can assist with efforts to standardize curricula and can also give students a resource to work with from home prior to an assessment. Here are some good screen-casting and sharing tools:

- **Screencast-O-Matic:** With a free version and an affordably-priced upgrade with a few extra editing features, this tool connects directly to Dropbox for easy cloud saving.
- **Screencastify:** This is one of the most popular and widely-used screencasting devices. It's free, it can be used when offline, and it works with Google's highly popular Chrome internet browser very well.
- **Explain Everything:** If you're in a discipline where working problems out on whiteboards are integral to your teaching style (for example: physics, chemistry, or math), then this might be a good option for you. This screencasting tool is optimized to follow sketching and compartmentalized steps in a logical, easy-to-comprehend way.
- **Suivl:** This one isn't an app so much as an innovative piece of tech: It's an automated tripod that you can use for your iOS or Android phone. It will track your motion and follow you around the room, so you can present and lecture without having to worry about standing in one location. This results in more organic lectures and much more dynamic lesson recordings. It's also often used by teachers to evaluate their own teaching methods.

Tools for Cloud Syncing

To make sure that your resources are accessible to the most people in the most convenient way and to ensure that your profile is accessible from any device, you're going to want to choose a cloud syncing method and stick with it. As an added benefit, this also adds a layer of security, in case a device that you're working on gets lost, broken, or stolen. All of your work itself will remain intact and secure.

- **Dropbox:** This is a good choice for anyone who will be shooting and sharing video, as it has a good amount of space available. It's also easy to use across platforms.
- **OneDrive:** Even though this only works with Word, Excel, and Powerpoint, it's a very accessible tool for those three ubiquitous tools.
- **Google Drive:** This will likely be a tool you have access to even if you don't realize it, as it's the tech that underlies Google Classroom. It's invaluable, and everyone should use it!

Expression

We'll turn now to tools that help augment student's experiences of 1-1 computing. When properly done, giving students more access to technology should give them a whole new world of opportunity for creative expression. Here are a few tools that teachers have employed to do just that:

- **VoiceThread:** This is a voice-to-text tool that is reliable and very well programmed. It's helpful for giving even young creators a tool with which to create a portfolio.
- **Write About This and Tell About This:** These are apps with prompt-based writing sessions and recording sessions to help kids of all ages find a way to use their imaginations.
- **Dragon:** This text editor and speech recognition program has an app for virtually every platform, and easily allows for copying and pasting into other apps and programs for nearly universal usage.

Assistance for Students with Special Needs

- The Chrome web browser comes equipped with several extensions that should assist students with special needs. These include the Dyslexia Reader, the Speech Recognition add-on, and Google Voice Typing.

Tools for Presentations

- **Haiku Deck** is great for younger kids who would like to create presentations, as it comes with a link to Creative Commons and free stock photos.
- **Prezi** is a completely online tool that makes mind-map inspired dynamic presentations. It's intuitive, and very interesting to both use and look at once completed!
- **SlideShare:** This tool is great for creating presentations for you to later display or embed in a class resources list, or on a class website.

Tools for Digital Note-Taking

There are those who say that there simply isn't any alternative for handwritten notes; and they may be right. Fortunately, with the advent of incredibly responsive

touch screens and apps that are good at digitizing even the messiest of handwriting, the benefits of written notes can have the same convenience of typed ones! Here's a roundup of top-tier digital note-taking apps.

- **Evernote:** There's a free version that supports basic note-taking as well as a more premium version which can be bought as a school-wide plan. Evernote recognizes scanned notes as well as handwritten ones.
- **Google Keep:** As another app in the Google family, the Keep app supports quick notes-on-the-go as well as more detailed reports with pictures and bullets supported.

Tools for Basic Graphic Design and Infographics

Not every project turned in needs to be beautiful, of course; however, the earlier students learn that good presentation and design works, the better! You can also use these tools to customize worksheets or resources to make them more colorful, helpful, and interesting.

Particularly if any of your students are young artists in the making, they may be interested in the following:

- **Canva:** An online, easy-to-use, free design program, Canva helps you create posters for school promotions, beautiful presentations, and more.
- **Visme, Piktochart, Infogram, and Ease.ly:** Any of these would be a great choice for easy-to-make yet good-looking infographics.
- **Storyboard That:** Want to make some simple cartoons for your class, or help any budding filmmakers indulge in their dreams? This is a very simple tool to use to put together short storyboards.
- **Classtools.net:** This is a free teacher site that has a vast library of creator-friendly resources, from the ability to make custom video games, quizzes, and even fake Facebook and Twitter profiles for historical figures or characters for your courses.
- **Paletton:** For a primer on basic color theory as well as the ability to make color palettes that look good together, this is a great first step.

Tools for Formative Assessments

One thing will never really change about learning techniques! No matter how you're teaching your students, you'll need to find a way to assess what they're doing. Periodic traditional tests and quizzes will never go out of style, but with the ongoing data available in a 1-1 computing setting, it might be possible to get even more of-the-moment detail about how your students are doing. This can give you the ability to send help when it's needed--not just after the next test.

- **Edpuzzle:** On this platform, you can place videos directly next to questions, so you can quiz your students in a timely fashion as they're taking in the targeted information.
- **Socrative:** As an ongoing tool for understanding student engagement through on-the-fly assessments, this tool works wonders. It's sleek and well-maintained, and their support features are incredibly responsive.
- **Formative:** With this tool, you can see students working through their math problems live.
- **Kahoot:** With this tool, you can create fast-paced games out of questions you have for your students.
- **SmartLab:** If you have SmartLab running on your teacher computer, you can project it to the front of the room and let students chime in on their own devices for quiz games, activities, and more.

Tools for Link Sharing

As much of 1-1 computing and BYOD learning will depend on shared resources, it's good to make sure that you have a dependable way to do just that. Here are some favored link-sharing tools to make even the simplest steps of online teaching easier:

- **LessonPaths:** This site offers educational playlists for students to enjoy.
- **Symbaloo:** If you're looking for a good 'home page' to designate for your K-12 students, this is a good option. It offers buttons that can take students to educational sites very easily.
- **Diigo:** This is a great tool for older students who might be doing research in groups. It offers a shared bookmarking platform--and it offers it for free, which is a great perk!
- **Google Spreadsheets:** While all of the Google Drive apps are great for shared work, Spreadsheets in particular is great for sharing long organized lists of resources.

Tools for Kinesthetic Learning

Another oft-heard critique of 1-1 computing is that it will supplant any kind of interaction within the classroom, instead of gluing students to their screens. With these apps, even PE teachers have managed to have fulfilling remote and digitally-enabled motion-intensive courses—great for helping students to be more active, and also good for students who naturally learn with a more hands-on modality.

- **ReplayIt:** This is a free extension for Chrome which allows you to set a delay on your video camera, record yourself doing a specific motion, and then share it easily.

- **Fit Radio:** With this app, you select a specific motion or activity that you'd like your students to complete, and the app will select music to match.
- **Team Shake:** If you need an updated solution for picking teams effectively, look no further than this app. It helps you switch up teams, and you can even put in restraints and conditions—for example, if you'd rather place two kids together, or (alternatively) make sure that they're not in the same group.

Section 3 Summary

Once you've implemented a 1-1 computing program, your work is still far from done. It's on you, as a teacher, to find creative ways to make the most of your academic environment. Finding ways to use the Internet and digital media to their fullest extent can help you offer your students a top-tier education. With the resources available to us in modernity, it might even be easy to do so!

However, finding the balance between screen time and in-person time can be difficult—especially when screen time is easier and the students are often more interested in it! Finding a way to use screens in class while, at the same time, using interactive activities to bond with your students is a fantastic recipe for academic success.

Conclusion

1-1 computing is the current big trend in education, with school districts all over the country making the leap to a much more digitized in-school (and out-of-school) experience. Relying more on technology and digital resources in the classroom has many benefits for students. It allows them to be more independent, it helps them take responsibility for their learning, and it can offer them more virtual experiences to deepen their academic learning than any analog resources could in the past.

However, in order for 1-1 computing to be a viable solution, it does take quite a bit of background work (as well as ongoing maintenance). Teachers need to be educated, administrators and parents need to be on board, and policies need to be clearly delineated.

Once this is done, 1-1 computing can represent a way to enable your students to learn remotely if need be; it can help appeal to myriad types of learners, and can certainly be a fantastic way to utilize the latest in technology to support an excellent education for your students.

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