Talking about Technology

Libertyville D70 Now Has its Own App!
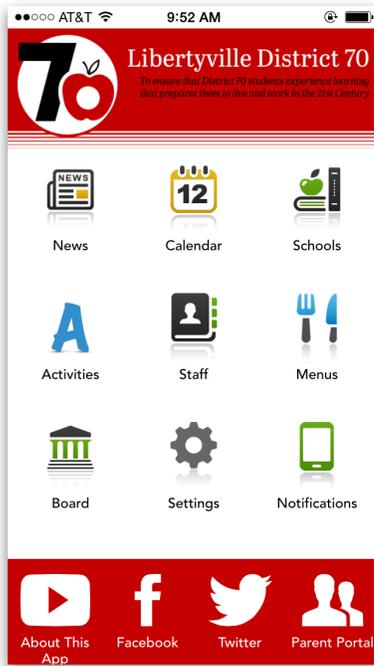
For iOS and Android

This app makes connecting with Libertyville School District 70 so easy. Access school or teacher information, receive alerts regarding school closings, check calendar information, access the food menus and more! It's new! It's exciting! Have you seen it? If not, go to the iTunes Store or Google Play Store and download the District 70 Mobile App today.

See the promotional video… *http://bit.ly/d70mobileapp*

FINDING TRUSTWORTHY INFORMATION REGARDING KIDS MEDIA

Common Sense Media is a great resource to help navigate the visual and text world students live in. They rate and review television shows, books, apps, games, movies, music and websites. They provide you with background information and provide you with guidelines as to what age it would be appropriate.

The parent blog is a great place to find the latest trends in students' technology lives. Check it out at: https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog. Feel free to signup for their newsletter as well.

Talking Tech with Children

Have you ever asked a child how to do something on a phone, computer or other electronic device? Have you sat down next to a child and watched them play on the playstation or X-box? Doing so may be an enlightening moment! Talking with children about what they are doing with technology provides insight and a look into their world. Additionally, this can be a great time to talk about other topics, encouraging children to speak more freely as they engage with tech. Talking about technology is a great hook for the children since they enjoy using it so much.

What can you talk about? Ask them how to do something using a piece of technology. Or, ask them what they are doing in their classroom using technology. For students in grades 3-8, have them show you how Google Docs works or how to comment on a document. In grades K-2, ask them what they are doing on the iPads or what projects they create when they use Wixie. (Wixie is a creative online learning platform that allows students to write, add audio, and draw on a canvas.)

common sense media

Assessments with Technology

This year students and staff have stepped up and embraced the use of technology for assessments as it provides students with innovative and informative means of demonstrating knowledge and learning. In the classroom, students use technology for many types of assessments, including the use of Google Forms, Kahoot (a game based response system), writing in Google Docs, and creating presentations using Google Slides or Prezi, just to name a few. Additionally, we have added two standardized testing components to our school year, STAR and PARCC. Both tests were administered using a combination of iPads, Chromebooks, laptops and desktops. STAR testing has provided data that is both formative and timely due to easy access of our technology. PARCC is just finishing up, and data will be analyzed and reviewed in the future. Thorough preparation by the tech staff of the testing processes helped to ensure minimal issues with the new territories of standardized testing with technology. Technology is ever evolving and provides a multitude of ways for student learning to be evaluated and assessed over time.

Staying One Tech Step Ahead of Your Kids

This article is worth a read. It provides food for thought about the many, many social media apps available on smart phones, e-readers and even gaming systems.

http://www.talentzoo.com/digital-pivot/blog_news.php?articleID=17150

Keep Those Keyboard Skills Fresh!

Grades 2-5: Summer Typing
This year, District 70 implemented a typing program for grades 2-5, Typing Agent. During the school year, teachers gave six weeks of instruction, 2-3 times a week, as a foundational skill time. This block of time focused on keyboarding instruction. Independent development and practice time was a five month block of time where students independently worked with the software, Typing Agent, to practice and improve their keyboarding skills.
As a parent, we ask that you encourage your child to improve on what he/she has learned over the course of the school year by reminding him/her to practice at home every week over the summer months. Frequency is more important than quantity, so several sessions for only a few minutes will more greatly benefit students' skills. Allow your 2-5 grade student to practice using our district software, Typing Agent. The link is located on the Students and Parents link from any of the schools' websites or by following this link: http://d70schools.org/students/. Students can login to Typing Agent using their district username and password, just like they have throughout the school year. Students can continue to work through their lessons and try to achieve three stars! A variety of games are also available as a component of Typing Agent.

TYPING AGENT
Learn to Type. Love the Fun.