

TECHNOLOGY TIPS AND TRICKS

1

Connection is fundamental to engagement.

Students have to feel connected to something to want to engage in the work. Consider working with other teachers and your students on how to build community in a digital space.

2

Use a minimum amount of technology to accomplish your goals.

Start with what you want to accomplish, and then decide which technology is necessary for that work.

3

Assign "must do" and "can do" work.

This means we should be assigning less work to students each day. If students want to go beyond, then they can read Student eText or Leveled STEM readers. These students can work in small groups and report back to the whole class about what they have learned.

4

Suggest students use headphones.

When this is available, it's a game changer for kids. They are more willing to engage in the work because they don't feel like the other people in their house are listening to what is going on.

5

Include "real world" science.

Discuss what students are doing at home that is science related, such as watching a comet, growing plants, or raising butterflies from caterpillars through metamorphosis. Talk about the local weather, chemical changes that occur at home, such as frying an egg, and examples of force and motion that students encounter during their day.

6

Use a blend of synchronous and asynchronous environments.

7

Consider offering one assignment each week in which students must work together or in small groups to help promote collaboration skills in your students.

Examples are completing the Virtual Labs, uEngineer It! Interactivities, or the Synthesize Interactivities. Have them share a summary of the topic Leveled Reader or share the results of an activity they did at home.

8

Encourage students to use digital tools.

Have students share work they have done independently with the larger group.

