# *Making The Future Bright*

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Everyday when you walk through the entrance to your school, what do you see? Sleek, portable laptop computers, large Smart Boards attached to the wall, maybe even iPads charging in the corner. All of these things make school a more modern and a better place in general. Now, take all of that away. Think about what school would be like. No laptops means everything would have to be hand written. Students couldn't share any of their hard work with the virtual world. At the end of the day, the pupils' hands would shake with an unbearable aching pain from writing letter after letter, number after number. Stroking the graphite onto the page again, and again. The same strokes with almost no break. Without Smart Boards, lessons wouldn't be interactive or fun. Smart Board presentations allow the students to be apart of the lesson. Minutes would feel like hours. Without these modern luxuries, learning is bland, unoriginal, and not very effective. Technology makes learning more effective and fun. That's why school districts with enough money should invest in electronics for schools. Technology makes teaching easier, makes learning fun and effective, and prepares children for the life ahead of them.

Using more electronics in school benefits everyone, not just the students. Technology makes teaching easier then ever. If teachers start planning most of their lessons virtually on their laptop or smartphone, they are less likely to forget the lesson plans. If lesson plans are continued to be written on paper, a teacher with stressed mind might forget that valuable piece of paper that holds the plans for the school day at home. This means the day would be unorganized and a complete mess. However, what that teacher has engraved in their mind is bring their laptop and smartphone to school. Keeping notes and plans for a lesson on one of these devices would almost guarantee lesson plans would make the trip to school. This benefits the teacher by giving them a day as smooth as a newly paved street because everything they need or want to do during the day is planned and easy to find. This also benefits the students because an organized teacher means better lessons, rewarding them with a golden education. Not only does virtual lesson plans mean a less likely chance of being alone at home, but it also keeps what teachers are bringing back and forth from school incredibly lighter. Keeping all of those notes in a bulky binder makes carrying the essentials feel like lifting cinderblocks. However, if these pages of notes are stored virtually on a slim laptop or pocket-sized smartphone, it would make the load that's being brought to and from school light like a feather pillow. Using electronics also saves time in being used in the classroom. Through programs like [Office 365](), students are able to access documents they work on in school at home through their web browser. This means teachers won't have to use a dozen classes for one written project. The students will be able to work in school, and then at home so the project is completed in a flash. This may mean more homework for students, but having just a bit more homework will improve pupil's time management skills. They will have to plan when they're

going to work on the project throughout the week, so they don't wait to the very last minute and try to write almost the entire project in a flash so they don't have an overdo project. Not only will students have to plan how much they're going to work on the project at home, but they will also have to plan at what time they will work on their project so they can complete it and still attend extra curricular activities. Developing these skills now will assist the children of today in the land of tomorrow. More technology would help teachers out tremendously. If they had a choice between a hard, old school paper and pencil teaching methods, or an easy, modern and interactive teaching method, which would they choose? If the teachers had a choice, they would choose the modern easy teaching method. This method is using the modern luxuries that is technology, a teacher's job would be a breeze.

Technology doesn't just make teaching effortless, it also makes it fun and more effective. A long, bland lecture about an important event in history just bores the students, and makes it difficult for them to pay attention. When students don't pay attention to the instructor, they have to call the student out. If this becomes repetitive, the teacher will get annoyed, and nobody like a teacher with a raging storm cloud over their head. However, this can be avoided like a pot hole in the road. Using funny educational videos, such as BrainPop, in place of these lectures will means students will have a prolonged attention span. If students pay attention longer, then they end up learning more in the end. If the teacher uses more of videos with humor and information, they won't have to deal with their pupils not paying attention as much as they would during a long, sleep inducing speech. This proves technology makes learning amusing. Videos are not the only thing that makes lessons enjoyable, but interactive presentations, such as Smart Notebook presentations on Smart Boards, give the students a chance to contribute to the lesson. These presentations make learning a subject like a game show. They can have fun mini-games within them, like matching a certain thing to its category it belongs in. Another game within a Smart Notebook presentation is trying to spell words correctly. If a student or group of students spells a word right, then they receive points. If they misspell a word, they lose points. This can create a little friendly competition in the class, keeping students intrigued by giving them the suspense of grasping a sweet victory, or having the sour, bitter taste of defeat. Even better, it helps children remember the words in the presentation because they will remember the competitive spirit and fun they experienced in a class that is expected to be so boring it's feared. Thus making lessons more effective. Educational computer games on websites like Everyday Mathematics Online also makes education enjoyable and more effective. Playing a game on a computer that utilizes a certain skill will reinforce that skill, making the student playing that game more confident using it. These games will make practicing this ability fun. It's much better than doing several bland practice problems on a piece of paper. Problem after problem, with no sense of fulfillment or accomplishment. A boring lesson means the students are less likely to remember what they were taught. The knowledge the teacher spent hours cramming into the student's mind just falls out like an overstuffed box. In my school days, a fun lesson lets me enjoy learning and remember what was taught longer. A flat, mundane lesson makes it harder for me to

remember the essential facts that I will be tested on. Using more technology will benefit everyone. Using electronics in lessons makes facts taught in the period remain in a student's busy mind longer.

Using more technology in schools doesn't just make school more exciting and effective, but it also helps achieve what a school's ultimate goal is. This goal is preparing this generation for the life ahead of them. The main reason we go to school is to prepare us for whatever we encounter in life. If schools don't use technology at all or too little, than our generation won't have computer skills. If we don't develop these necessary skills now or ever, finding a job to put dinner on the table later in life would be extremely difficult. This is because this time period is an era of technological advances. So many jobs now a days involve using technology, whether it be programing computers to ringing groceries at a grocery store. Further more, careers in this era revolve around computer experience. Thus having computer skills that are as great as a potato's computer skills means getting a job that pays well would be nearly impossible twenty years down the road. However, if we learn how to use technology now as children, we can establish greater electronic skills as we grow older. If have technology skills that are outstanding, finding a job that gives you a dinner larger than a piece of bread and water would incredibly easier. Having remarkable computer skills would be amazing on a future résumé. If you were a CEO of a big company in twenty years, who would you hire? Someone with below average computer knowledge, or someone with exceeding computer knowledge? Naturally, you would pick the person with the higher computer knowledge. Having these computer skills can also make us money as adults. You don't need to have the career of a computer programmer to make money off of your computer skills. To gain a little extra money, we could utilize our technology skills to make a game that your customers need to pay for to play, or you could teach others how to use electronics via computer classes or real classes. Having a little extra money is great in case a sudden fee pops up that you need to pay for immediately, if you want to take a break from the stressful work environment. Knowing how to use these modern luxuries can make life so much easier. That is why it's crucial to gain technology skills now, so this generation can thrive in the future.

Why ignore these man-made blessings? Using them makes school a better place for everyone. Without any technology, school would be dreaded by almost every student; school would be a place of boredom. Every school day would be another long seven hours of waiting for the clock to tick by till dismissal. *Tick, tick, tick, tick, tick, tick.* The ringing noise of the dismissal bell would be bliss to the students' ears. They would finally be free from the shackles of the endless boredom of what school would be; until they would have to return for another seven hours of misery the next day. Now, imagine the exact opposite. Think about what your school would be like with even more machinery. Those *ticks* would fly like birds because the technology you're using is making school fun. In fact, you're learning even more than you were using minimal technology. That's why schools need to invest in more technology for classrooms. Using more of these modern conveniences makes teaching a piece of cake, gives learning the ability to be enjoyed, and prepares this generation for the long road ahead.