

Assistive Technology

Built-In Features: Personalize Your Device

- Font Size- available on Apple, Android, and PC products, allows for the user to change the size of the font of what they are reading.
- Text to Speech- available on Apple, Android, and PC products- a service that understands text and natural language to generate synthesized audio output complete with appropriate cadence and intonation. (<https://text-to-speech-demo.mybluemix.net/>)
- Closed Caption- available on Apple and Android products- a service that captions what the user is watching (movies, television shows, etc.)
- Dictionary- available on Apple, Android, and PC products, a service to get quick access to definitions and commonly used phrases to help with spelling, pronunciation, and grammar.
- Safari Reader- available on Apple products, For some students, navigating the web can be a sensory overload. Safari Reader reduces the visual clutter on a web page by removing distractions. It strips away ads, buttons, and navigation bars, allowing you to focus on just the content you want (<http://www.apple.com/accessibility/ios/>)
- Guided Access- available on Apple products, Guided Access helps people with autism or other attention and sensory challenges stay focused on the task (or app) at hand. With Guided Access, a parent, teacher, or therapist can limit an iOS device to stay on one app by disabling the Home button, and limit the amount of time spent in an app. You can even restrict access to the keyboard or touch input on certain areas of the screen. (<http://www.apple.com/accessibility/ios/>)
- Timers- available on Apple, Android, and PC products
- Calendars & Reminders- available on Apple, Android, and PC products

Reading:

- uPar- teachers aren't always effective when selecting reading accommodations for students. The protocol can be given to up to 30 students at once and on any device with Web access. During the assessment, students read a series of passages online, then with different accommodations. After each passage, students take a quiz. Subsequent passages adjust to how well the student performs with each given accommodation. Results and data are made immediately available after a student completes the assessment. (<https://thejournal.com/articles/2014/10/01/par-reading-accommodation-assessment-goes-digital.aspx>)
- Bookshare- works with over 820 publishers to collect new releases and existing books that are currently unavailable to individuals who cannot read standard print. Bookshare's technology converts the digital files to accessible formats, including braille, audio, highlighted text and large-font text. (<http://blog.bookshare.org/>)
- Learning Ally- Learning Ally has a paid individual membership of \$135 per year (financial assistance available). It provides a wide range of services for individuals with print disabilities such as dyslexia and visual impairments, as well as the people who support them. This includes services for parents such as

phone consultations, webinars, support networks and information on specialists and tutors; and services for teachers such as classroom management tools (Teacher Ally), professional development workshops and lesson plans. Learning Ally also offers a robust digital audiobook library that includes the world's largest collection of audio textbooks. The library, which in 2015 contained over 80,000 titles, includes a broad variety of specialty and academic subjects, from kindergarten through post-graduate and professional (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Learning_Ally)

- **Audible-** Audible sells digital audiobooks, radio and TV programs, and audio versions of magazines and newspapers. Many 'Whispersync' titles which allow for you to switch between text versions and audio version without losing your place in the book. Growing number of 'Emergent Reader' titles that syncs the audible version with the text version of book (the text is highlighted as the audio is heard). Over 180,000 best-selling audiobooks read by actors for an engaging reading experience.
- **Snap&Read-** an extension through Google Chrome that helps those with diverse reading needs including: Reading accessible and inaccessible text aloud, works across Google Drive, email, websites, Kindle Cloud Reader, and PDFs, works offline, Dynamic Text Leveling, study tools, translation into over 100 languages, data for reading level and usage, and bibliographer (<http://donjohnston.com/snap-read/>)
- **Read/Write Family-** Also known as "Texthelp" is a family of literacy software programs that makes the internet, documents and files more accessible - any time, any place, and on any platform or device. It's great for people with dyslexia and other learning difficulties, or anyone whose first language isn't English. From reading on-screen text aloud to researching and checking written work, Read&Write makes lots of everyday tasks easier. It's a big confidence booster for anyone who needs a little extra help with their reading and writing, at school or in the workplace.
- **Kurzweil-** Kurzweil 3000 is an educational technology, or assistive technology, which provides a reading, writing and study platform aimed at people with learning disabilities or other disabilities that make reading or writing difficult. Kurzweil 3000 is used to support those with dyslexia, dysgraphia, English language learners in school, higher education, at home and in the workplace. Kurzweil 3000 can read aloud web-based, digital or scanned print material, convert web-based, digital or scanned print materials into mp3 to provide audible files to listen to on the go or through its firefly web app can be read on an iPad. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurzweil_Educational_Systems)
- **Google Extensions-** Google extensions are small software programs, added to the Google Chrome web browser that can modify and enhance the Chrome browser for the users experience.
- **A to Z reading-** Text to speech along with highlighting of text.

Writing:

- **Inspiration Maps-** Inspiration Maps is a mind-mapping tool that helps kids visually organize ideas. They can create diagrams, maps, organizers, brainstorm, and text outlines. Outlines can be converted to maps, and maps can be converted to outlines. Users can share creations by emailing, printing, or saving to iTunes, Dropbox, Photos, or the app (as PDF or PNG files). This app is a must-have app for kids who have executive functioning issues. The app helps kids with organization as they add material to their graphic organizer. Kids can add photos and color-code their bubbles, which benefits the visual learner. (<https://www.commonensemedia.org/app-reviews/inspiration-maps#>)
- **Dragon Dictation-** Dragon dictation is a software product which is a speech to text product. While many devices come with a speech to text feature, this software is the best option for students who will rely on this accommodation regularly since it continually improves as it adapts to your voice. Dragon speech recognition software is better than ever, just talk and your words appear on the screen. Say commands and your computer obeys. Dragon is 3x faster than typing and it's 99% accurate. It is compatible with

both iOS and Android products (<http://www.nuance.com/dragon/index.htm>)

- Grammarly- Grammarly is a free online editing service (for Google Chrome, Safari, and Firefox) which offers significantly more robust editing than built in editing software in devices. This service offers features including, but not limited to: Spell check, Grammar check, Vocabulary enhancer, Plagiarism detector (<https://www.grammarly.com/1>)
- Ginger- Ginger creates apps and products that help people communicate more productively and efficiently on their mobile devices and desktop computers. The mobile keyboard and writing enhancement apps utilizes statistical algorithms in conjunction with patented Natural Language Processing (NLP) technology to contextually understand text and intention. Features include: grammar checker, sentence rephraser, translation, dictionary, text reader, and a personal trainer. It is compatible with both iOS and Android products. (<http://www.gingersoftware.com/products/english-personal-trainer#.V-VYcDjrvIU>)
- Snap Type- A program (available through the apple app store) that allows you to take a picture of a document (like a worksheet) and then have the ability to type write into it.

Note Taking:

- Snap & Read- When we read, we take information from text and integrate it into our own schemas. We check our existing knowledge and see if there are differences. Then we reorganize, adding the new information. Some students do this well. Others need more structure and modeling for understanding. Snap&Read has Highlighters which allows you to highlight content from anywhere online including Google Docs, websites, PDFs, as well as Kindle and Bookshare books, then an outline can be organized and added to, right beside the source content. The source is automatically cited (MLA, APA, and Chicago style) for the highlighted content and can be organized so it makes sense. The outline can be used to structure the kind of transition from reading to writing expected by College and Career Ready standards. Students can build outlines, then pull content into their structured outlines by gathering source content. (<http://donjohnston.com/snap-read/>)
- Read Write Family- Read&Write makes the web, documents and files more accessible. It's a friendly, intuitive toolbar that assists students at all levels with everyday tasks like reading text out loud, understanding unfamiliar words, researching assignments and proofing written work (<https://www.texthelp.com/en-us/products/read-and-write-family/read-write-for-education>)
- Notability- Notability is a software option which offers solutions for students who have difficulties with note taking and annotating documents. Note taking features include both audio and typed notes. Combine handwriting, photos and typing in a single note to bring your projects to life. Use a wide range of note-taking and sketching tools to capture every detail. You can even add and annotate PDFs and share your notes with colleagues or study partners through Google Drive, AirDrop, Email and Dropbox.
- Livescribe Pen- The Livescribe smartpen captures everything that you write and everything that is spoken. Inside the pen is a camera that takes a picture of your notes as you write them. It also has a built-in microphone that lets you record what is being said. Once the pen is turned on, which requires the click of a button, the pen will begin taking a picture of the notes that you write. The Livescribe smartpen works with Livescribe dot paper which comes in a variety of sizes. You can print your own paper if you have a compatible laser printer. If you choose not to take notes, you can record audio and replay the session. In addition to listening to the audio recording by tapping on your notes, you can transfer notes to your computer through Livescribe Desktop software. Your notes appear just as they were written. If you have used the audio recording you can place your cursor on a word and the audio playback will begin at that point. You can also search for a particular word and listen from there. (http://dyslexia.yale.edu/TECH_livescribe.html)

Studying:

- Quizlet- Quizlet is a free website providing learning tools for students, including flashcards, study and game modes. It was created by high school sophomore Andrew Sutherland in 2005 and now contains over 400 million study sets. All of the material is user-generated. (<https://quizlet.com/>)

Organization:

- myHomework- The myHomeowrk app is a comprehensive student planner. Going far beyond a traditional calendar, this app allows for students to: manage assignment due dates, manage class schedules, manage personal schedules, connect with teachers (when integrated with the school) to receive announcements, set priorities, and set reminders. (<https://myhomeworkapp.com/about>)
- Evernote- Evernote is a place for individuals and teams to capture, nurture, and share ideas in any form. The Evernote app is available across platforms on desktop, mobile, or on the web, meaning your ideas are always with you, always accessible, and always in sync (<https://evernote.com/corp/>)
- LiveBinder- LiveBinders is a powerful tool for professionals and students alike who know how good it feels when everything is in its proper place. Organize a diverse collection of resources into a streamlined package for sharing: File uploads, Google docs, Web links, Videos, Surveys, Presentations, and you can connect to Dropbox and Evernote. (http://www.livebinders.com/welcome/learn_more)