



Computer K-4

Technology is an integral part of any school curriculum. Today's world demands that every student be computer literate. We begin this process in kindergarten by teaching the students how to operate a computer.

They learn proper finger placement and how to locate the keys. They are also introduced to programs that help them to become proficient in basic math and reading skills. In first grade, students begin to build keyboarding skills. We use software and online programs to achieve this. Students have opportunities to use online resources to learn more about topics they are reading about and discussing in their library classes. We really begin to stress the importance of online safety at this age. In second grade, students begin to use *Word*. They type their weekly spelling units using specific formats. They continue to work on keyboarding. Gradually, they are able to produce simple reports and letters. Internet safety and responsibility are stressed.

When students reach grades 3 and 4, they take keyboarding to a higher level. The weekly practices are scored for speed and accuracy. At this time, many of the students take it upon themselves to practice independently. This enables them to achieve a high level of proficiency. Simple research projects are attempted, and the computer teacher may collaborate with the classroom teacher on specific projects. A great deal of time is spent on Internet safety and responsibility. The topic of *intellectual property* is discussed so that the students may have some understanding of what information on the web can be used without written permission of the owner. This is a topic that is becoming more complicated every day! We want our students to enter high school and beyond with the technology skills they will need to succeed.

Periodically, all students work on their math skills. We have a wide variety of programs available that will challenge any level of ability. We put special emphasis on basic skills. Achieving proficiency in basic math skills is one of our accreditation goals. Practicing math skills on the computer has proven to be very effective for many students.

Students enter our program with a wide range of skills. Some have had lots of exposure to technology; others have had very little. We strive to meet students where they are at and help them reach their potential. Grading in these courses is based on performance, effort, and cooperation.