




Back-to-School Technology Tips for Families

Dallas Weekly Staff Reports Aug 17, 2018  0



Schools are geared up and ready to go – with some having already started. With each passing year, technology is more a part of our students’ lives. Navigating the world of educational technology can be a daunting and overwhelming task for families – parents and students alike.

With the hustle-and-bustle of the beginning of the school year, navigating new technology can be difficult. Sometimes, the “education” can be lost in “education technology.” Even so, there is help for parents and students.

Making Education Technology Work

Dallas-Fort Worth is home to Istation, one of the nation’s premier education technology companies. An outside education expert, working with Istation principals, has put together a list of tips to help families navigate the sometimes-confusing world of education technology. The goal is to help families make good choices for a great school year.

Dr. Rebecca Putman (photo attached), assistant professor of curriculum and instruction at Tarleton State University (and a mom herself) and Istation Chief Operating Officer Ossa Fisher (photo attached and also a mom) are available for interviews, to submit columns, or visit with reporters about what parents need to consider when choosing education technology for their children.

Istation wants parents to know that they have immense power when it comes to making sure their children perform well in school.

You Can Help Parents Navigate the World of Education Technology

To set up media appearances or interviews, or to request columns or press releases, please contact Laurey Peat + Associates at (214) 871-8787 or by email at jpg@lpapr.com.

The Tips:

When choosing educational technology, parents should look for the following features:

1. A Focus on Learning Instead of Competition

The technology should focus on learning, not competition. While children should be encouraged to use their imagination and play while using technology, the goal should not be to win.

2. Open-Ended Opportunities

The technology should be open-ended and encourage creativity. In other words, the technology should allow your child to create something rather than just clicking on the right answer. The technology should offer multiple opportunities for your child to be successful.

3. Adaptability

The technology should adapt to your child's needs and interests. When technology adapts to your child, the interaction becomes much more meaningful.

4. Interactivity

The technology should encourage meaningful interactions between you and your child. You should use the technology with your child, providing guidance and conversation around the technology. Children learn more when you watch and interact with the technology. You can help your child make connections and develop new understandings.

—Dr. Rebecca Putman, Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Instruction at Tarleton State University

