

The versatility of Microsoft Surface for teachers and students

Improve student outcomes and help teachers provide more personalized learning with mobile and flexible classroom devices



Technology that meets you where you are

The digital classroom is here to stay. According to a 2019 Gallup poll, about 65 percent of teachers surveyed say that they use digital learning tools to teach every day, and 53 percent report that they'd like to use digital learning tools to teach more often.¹

The same poll shows that most teachers, principals, and administrators think digital learning tools are at least as effective as non-digital learning tools. In fact, 73 percent of school district administrators say that digital learning tools are more effective than non-digital tools for personalizing instruction.

Emerging evidence indicates that when digital learning tools are offered to all learners, the classroom as a whole performs better. In a recent study, when collaborative technology tools were given only to students who needed them, there was a 20 percent improvement in reading and writing. However, when they were provided to the entire class, there was a 30 to 40 percent improvement.²

And now, with schools around the world moving online in response to a global pandemic, it's never been more clear that teaching and learning remotely isn't a rare exception or future vision—it's our reality, and we need to be prepared for anything.

The speed with which staff and students have adjusted and adapted to this "new normal" is impressive. And with more time and investment, and a shift away from anchoring classrooms to onsite hardware, schools can help ensure the continuity of their students' education—now and in the future.



¹ Education Technology Use in Schools Student and Educator Perspectives, Gallup, 2019

² Forrester study: The Total Economic Impact™ Of Accessibility and Assistive Technology for Microsoft Education, 2019

How Surface can help

Recent research shows that personalized learning supports the development of cognitive and social-emotional skills by guiding students toward greater autonomy and control. But in a McKinsey summary report commissioned by Microsoft, nearly 70 percent of teachers said that time constraints were their biggest hurdle to providing more personalized content to their students.¹

However, the research also revealed that technology can help. McKinsey estimates that “technology can help teachers reallocate 20 to 30 percent of their time so they can focus more on student-centric activities such as building deeper one-on-one relationships, refining individual lesson plans, or providing real-time and personalized feedback to students.” And that extra time goes a long way toward helping students develop the non-technical skills that will help them stand out in the workforce.



In a recent survey, nearly 40 percent of employers said the primary causes of entry-level vacancies are gaps in required skills, including teamwork, work ethic, leadership, problem solving, and creativity.”¹

The Class of 2030 and Life-Ready Learning, McKinsey, 2018

Teachers can enjoy greater freedom of expression and productivity

Roam freely around the classroom

Because Surface devices are lightweight, educators are able to move around the room without stepping away from their computer. There’s no need to interrupt a lesson to grab a notebook or paper—it’s all there on the device. Surface is their video studio, art studio, communications hub, and office. They can talk to it, record with it, draw on it, and ideate with it. And from wherever they’re standing, they can easily project documents or a digital whiteboard to the whole class.

Save and search handwritten notes as text

Using Surface Pen, teachers can work out equations, draw diagrams, and mark up assignments with handwriting that’s automatically converted to text.

Stay up and running through every class

Surface devices offer all-day battery life and fast charging* so that teachers can focus on their lesson plan without worrying about suddenly losing power.

Switch easily between tablet and laptop modes

Surface devices were designed for versatility, with several two-in-one form factors available. Teachers can transition easily from typing to writing by hand to using the HD PixelSense touchscreen—all without switching devices.

Protect your data with high security standards

Surface Enterprise Management Mode (SEMM) allows IT administrators to maintain visibility of, and control of, all the school’s devices. Intune and Windows Autopilot enable hands-free device deployment and remote management—right down to the firmware.

* Battery life varies significantly with settings, usage, and other factors.

Engage every learning style and need with thoughtful accessibility



Accessibility is usability, and Surface is designed and built to be used by everyone

Reduce distractions

Immersive Reader helps students retain more of the information they read by engaging them visually and reducing distractions. This is especially helpful for learners with attention deficit disorders.

Provide clear audio and video

Omnisonic speakers provide clear, immersive sound with no need for a separate speaker grill or headphones, and dual HD cameras allow for engaging remote lessons with sharp visual detail. This premium audio-visual experience is ideal for telehealth appointments and meetings with teachers and therapists.

Adapt to different motor skills

Using Windows Hello, students with limited motor skills can sign in more securely just by looking at the camera. And the pen options for Surface are large and heavy enough to help students strengthen their fine motor skills, which can be more challenging with a smaller stylus.

Offer a way to learn anywhere

Surface offers devices with LTE* so that you can provide all students with equal access to remote learning, even when they don't have a solid Wi-Fi connection.

Foster independence

Using a touchscreen helps young students build confidence in their ability to operate their own school device as easily as they do consumer devices. This familiar functionality can increase their confidence and independence as they operate the device.

Provide an adaptable device

Help learners use their device in the way that works best for them. In tablet mode, Surface devices can be held, perched on a desk or counter, attached to a wheelchair or mobile workstation, or laid flat on a lap or table.

Take spills in stride

Many Surface devices come with a removable keyboard so that if a spill happens, you can change out the keyboard without replacing the entire device.

* Service availability and performance subject to service provider's network. Contact your service provider for details, compatibility, pricing, SIM card, and activation. See all specs and frequencies at surface.com.

O'Dea High School's digital transformation helps students keep up during a school shutdown

In the winter of 2020, schools all over the world were faced with cancellation of classroom-based learning due to the global pandemic. Although the decision to close schools has undoubtedly saved lives, it poses an unprecedented disruption for students as schools scramble to adjust to a modified learning environment. O'Dea High School, located in the First Hill neighborhood of Seattle, has shifted its education to an online-only approach.



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According to Rory McNulty, a Spanish teacher at O'Dea, the transition to virtual hasn't been particularly disruptive. "The students actually are more on task because they're not in this kind of mob mentality of all being together in one room. With OneNote, they know I'm going to be going through their notebooks as they're working. There's lots of ways to keep them accountable and on task, and it's actually easier for me to keep track of them if I'm just sitting at my screen and they're all there too."¹

¹ *Learning in a time of Coronavirus: How O'Dea High School keeps educating with Teams*, Microsoft, 2020

Yeo Valley Primary School gives every student a Surface Go so that they can “work the way the world works”

Yeo Valley Primary School in North Devon, England—an ambitious setting for pupils aged 3–11 years—has transitioned to a digital environment where each student has one-on-one access to a Surface Go, and teachers each have their own Surface Pro 5 device. This not only helps teachers work more efficiently, but also empowers students with access to resources they’ve never had at their desk before.



Roy Goddin, a Year 6 teacher at Yeo Valley, has noticed the excitement around Surface in the classroom. “We’re starting to create 3D replicas of work that they are going to go and build and create. It brings their work to life and it makes it seem like a real possibility, and that’s exciting.”¹

¹ *Yeo Valley School transforms its curriculum by giving every pupil access to their own Surface Go*, Microsoft, 2019