

2026 Nyack School Technology Survey Results

Methods: During January-March 2026, survey was advertised to multiple social media sites, with heavy financial promotion to ensure broad exposure. Survey was also distributed over several Whatsapp and Discord channels numbering over 700 total members, and sent organically by community members.

Number of participants = 136, all with verified email addresses.

Margin of error = $\pm 9.115\%$, **confidence level 95%**. We may safely assume that the numbers below are within 9% of the real numbers for Nyack parents. In addition, results are basically consistent with [similar surveys](#) conducted in larger districts.

Results: very strong community opposition to current school technology policies. Highlights:

- **80.9%** of respondents believe there is **too much** chromebook and laptop usage in the district.
- **81.9%** have particular concerns about usage.
- **58.1%** have personally witnessed misuse of school devices.
- **85.9%** would like increased use of paper-and pencil methods.
- **70%** would like to be able to 'opt-out' of school devices.
- **63%** believe that kids in K-5 should not be using touchscreen devices, with **90%** thinking they should be removed from K-2 education.

Answers did not vary significantly by age of children: **82%** of parents with kids in Elementary schools say there is "too much" usage, as do **79%** of parents with kids in just Middle or High School.

While Upper Nyack Elementary is overrepresented in the sample, and while Valley Cottage is underrepresented, the percentages for all schools are within 5% of each other. There is no evidence that opinions vary significantly from school to school.

All data available upon request, except any identifying or personal information. All survey questions are included in this summary.

Comments selected at random with all potentially identifying information removed.

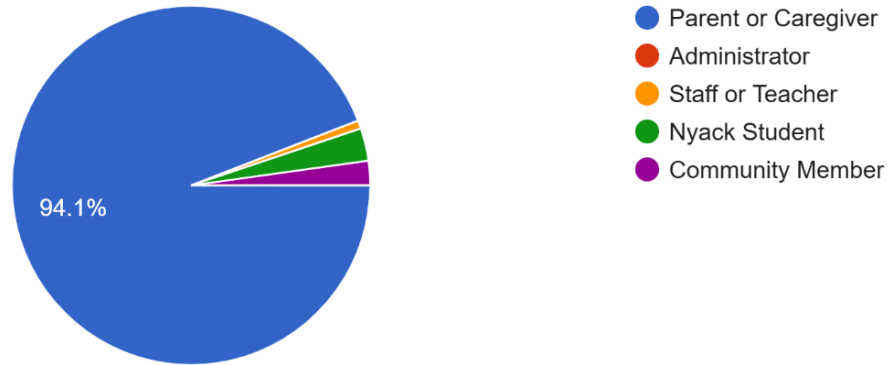
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1. Respondent Information

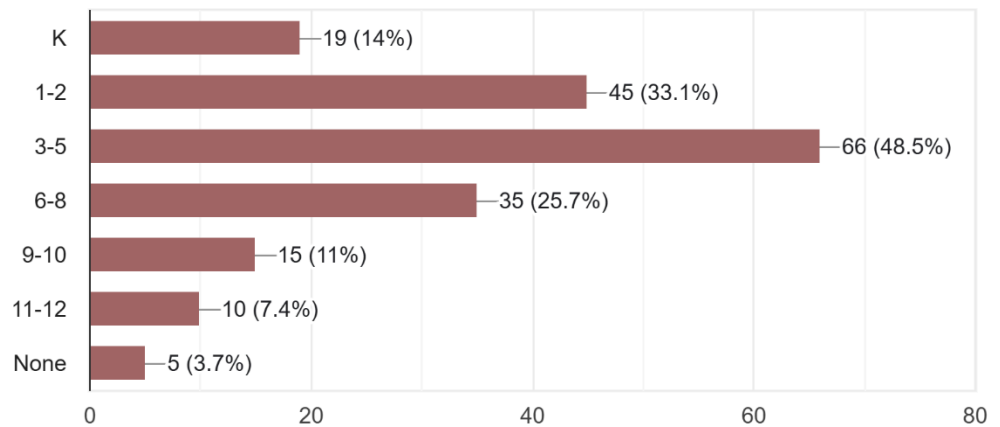
What is Your Role?

136 responses



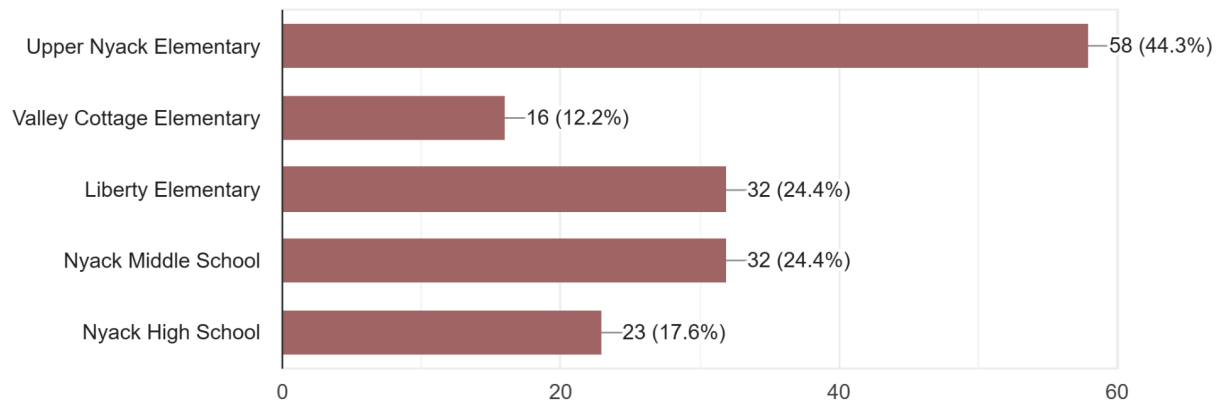
If you're a parent, which grade(s) are your children attending? If you're a student, which grade do you attend? If you're a teacher, which grade do you teach?

136 responses



If you are a parent, which schools do you currently have children in?

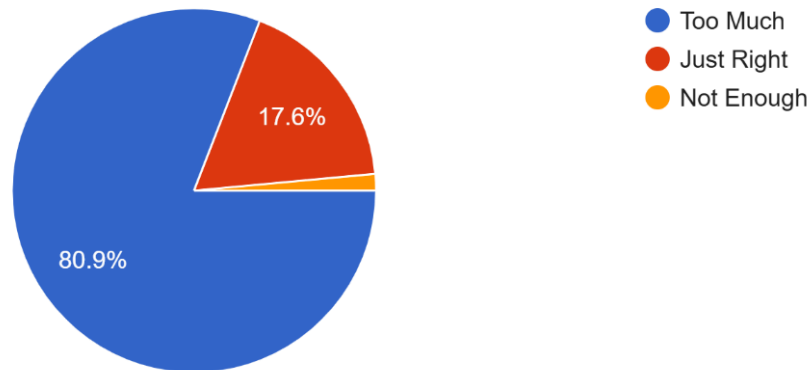
131 responses



2. General Opinions on School-Issued Devices

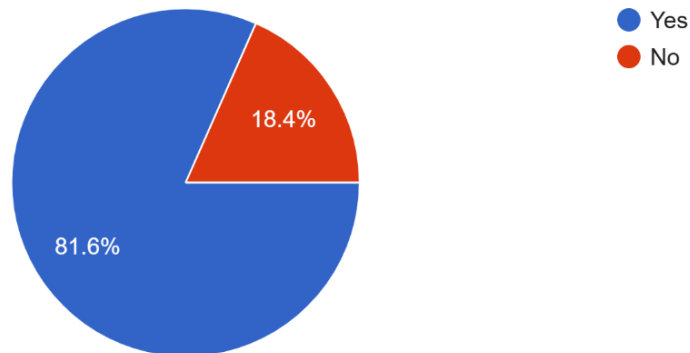
While usage varies from class to class, what is your opinion on the overall amount of student laptop/Chromebook use in Nyack schools?

136 responses



Do you have concerns about the way school-issued devices (i.e. Chromebooks) are used in class?

136 responses



2.1 Negative Views

You have indicated that you have some concerns about device use in classes. Please select the reasons that apply.

- Being used excessively overall – 75.7%
- Being used as “brain breaks” or rewards – 64%
- Devices are distracting or unsafe – 45.9%
- Devices undermine family screen time policies – 43.2%

Please expand on your concerns about school-issued device use in Nyack Schools (randomly selected 33% of 87 comments):

“Policies around usage seem unclear and inconsistent. It seems so broad and vague that it’s up to individual teachers to decide. The policies do not adequately protect our children’s safety. My friend’s kid came home with a song about Charlie Kirk on his Chromebook which he found while at school - how is this okay?? I have more concerns than I can type. These concerns also merge with overall screen usage and the introduction of AI. I get zero information from the school on whether my daughter has even begun using a Chromebook (she’s in kindergarten) but her teacher told me she thinks the kids are too young for them. I want to opt out!”

“I worked my butt off to keep my kids off screens . We have no tablets and stayed away from tv . My son came home with apps called bottle and others that are extremely addictive. All the research says screens are bad, why does UNES have them . I’ve been extremely disappointed and upset.”

“Handwriting and fine motor skill development seem to suffer as a result of overuse. My children have also reported that Chromebooks are routinely used during indoor recess and free time on a computer is offered up as a reward for finishing work early. Teachers are also unable to adequately monitor kids’ Google searches and safety software is either insufficient or easy for children to override.”

“I am primarily concerned that Ed tech policies are have not been clearly communicated and seem to be inconstant. It appears that these important decisions are being made without the opportunity for community input and feedback.”

“We are a screen-free household and it’s frustrating that my children get the most screen time at school unnecessarily.”

“I am a parent and teacher in district. I dislike how Chromebook use for children is used as a reward at the end of the school day. I am concerned about the Chromebook being a central device of learning in the classroom in the secondary years. there is a lot of interesting research about how pen and paper learning has a lot of benefits- and I want my children to learn through collaboration as well.”

“Early elementary kids do not need exposure to computers. Even late elementary. Not even for "skills". I'm a k-12 educator who has administered technology programs in schools for more than 20 years. It's not necessary.”

“My main concern is the correlation between screen time usage and dopamine “quick fixes”. I would like to see brain breaks prioritized more as physical activity and/or reading. I believe more communication and transparency regarding usage would be great and alleviate concerns.”

“I do not think the video gamification of education is effective. I do not think my child’s math or reading skills are improving because of the apps he is made to use on the Chromebook. These apps instead giving him a taste of video games, which he is not allowed at home, and the school use is “hooking” him— so he begs to be allowed to use these apps at home. I do not think these apps are improving his skills. I believe the interactive time with his real teachers are improving his capabilities.”

“Unfortunately I think the school is falling in line with the way things are happening world wide, I think the use of chrome books is necessary because the testing is now computerized and I understand the efficiency there-but using chrome books for "educational gaming" I question as it seems like the educational part is lacking-to me.”

“Beyond my concerns about excessive screen use, and the way the constant presence of a laptop and the draw of the internet is leading to distracted work habits in my child, I am also deeply concerned about the kinds of EdTech my child is assigned to use every day at the high school. My child is using a lot of weak, passive, simplistic, and babyish tech and video content every day, which is a poor substitute for authentic exchange, prevents deep learning and engagement, offering a thin, isolating, painfully boring, and generally low-quality alternative to actual in-person learning.”

“I don’t want my kindergartener to have a device. I don’t think it’s appropriate. I also don’t think they need to take chromebooks home and be responsible for it.”

“My son (1st grade) has mentioned screen based programs used in class, and it seems like there is always a new one being introduced. He mentioned that during library time he has a story read to him on the computer and the even gym has a “virtual gym” segment. This is excessive. It seems like he is on screens all day, and it counteracts the screen limiting we try at home. He also already figured out how to get off of lexia and google “minecraft” during class time... this risk/ temptation shouldn’t be there in the first place. there’s no need for it.”

“I believe that computers have a place in education but should be leveraged for teaching natively digital skills (like typing, coding, research) not as a substitute for paper and pencil which research has shown engages the brain differently, creates focus, and refines motor skills.”

“We have never been informed exactly how they use it during the day by the school. We have to rely on our 8 year old to tell us. We can gather loosely that there are several apps that are games on there but we don’t know exactly what because the school or teacher have never informed us. We don’t know what is authorized or unauthorized or safe to be on or what is the thinking or value behind any of it. Also it’s very heavy and she brings it home every night and I’m worried about damage to her back with heavy backpack. I don’t like having it at home every night and weekend. I have not been appropriately informed about anything regarding the Chromebook, other than signing a long form that says we have to pay for it if it gets damaged.”

“It’s the only thing he cares about. I’m worried about less real writing and reading without animation. They are constantly figuring out ways to talk to each other and work around blocks and using Chromebook as excuse to get online at home”

“WIN period at the elementary level turns into slideshow presentations and computer time for those children not receiving services. This is an utter waste of time that could be used for project based learning, foreign language, creative writing... literally anything else. Where is the effort?”

“As a high school teacher, I see the downstream effects of chromebooks. They seem helpful, but destroy active learning and students get accustomed to them.”

“My impression is that there is precious little instruction about computers or how they work (either from the hardware or software side — no real programming classes until 10th grade! and those are elective) in Nyack Schools. And yet from an early age every single child is issued one of these machines, for which parents have to sign a

waiver of some kind, insuring the child will use the computer properly and not break it, and with (as far as I'm aware) no option to refuse the machine or to reduce its outsized role in the child's life. It is one thing to have high school students turn in assignments via a web portal, quite another for the great majority of their classroom, social, and homework experience to take place on and through computers from kindergarten on.”

“One of the major benefits of schooling is socialization. The constant screen breaks and screen options especially during the colder months truly inhibit these social opportunities. Also, a lot of that screen time is not monitored and so kids get into all sorts of stuff they’re not ready for.”

“While I appreciate the use of technology and understand that it is an important part of school learning, I believe it is being abused in early grades. There is no need for a 1st grader to use a computer as a reward for completing a homework assignment on time. The excessive use of YouTube during calendar time is also a concern.”

“Given that many of the leaders in tech do not let their own children attend schools where education happens on screens, I question the assumptions that more tech in classrooms always equals better learning. I also don't believe tech in classrooms automatically sets students up for success in navigating the future. I am not anti-technology. I do NOT like the gamification of education. I do not think dopamine-driven teaching via apps, etc. equals deep learning, cognitive strength, nor enhances critical thinking.”

“Computers CANNOT and SHOULD NOT REPLACE person to person interaction. Unfortunately, my kids spend time at school in laptops / Chromebook’s IN PLACE OF interacting with their peers. Kids should be playing and working together, problem solving, creating... having free play time, playing games... not sitting in a personal device and not interacting. This is what happens daily. My kids do not get physical activity either; they are replaced with screens. Free time is replaced with screens. Teachers want kids quiet and instead of feeling with teaching conflict resolution and social skills, give kids personal devices to keep them separated and quiet.”

“Kids 100% should be learning to use technology in school but it needs to be structured use with a clear purpose. I do not agree with the idea that screens shouldn’t be used in school - the world we live in is full of technology and kids need to be prepared to use it. I would also like there to be technology curriculum for kids around safe use.”

“Screens are used to keep students busy when others are receiving services during WIN time. My children do not receive intervention services and are not challenged at their level during WIN time. Instead, they are told to use computer programs to keep them occupied while other students participate in "What I Need" time. My children are not getting what they need. Having my children bring their Chromebooks home also presents daily challenges for us to manage their screen time.”

“My daughter is in 1st grade. Children's brains are still developing significantly at that age, and studies show that screens are detrimental to that development. She is doing testing on the computer instead of with a pencil and paper, which can harm the development of muscles in the hand, and is also not an efficient way to assess what a 1st grader knows. The screens are highly overstimulating and it's difficult for children at this age to concentrate enough to take tests on them. I also take issue with the use of screens as "brain breaks". As I said, screens are highly overstimulating, therefore they do the opposite of giving the children breaks. They should be going outside or taking time to be mindful instead of watching a Danny Go video”

2.2 Positive Views

If you have no concerns about the use of school-issued devices, please select your basic reason(s) here:

- Prepares students for screen-based testing, work and life beyond school – 19 (76%)
- Students with disabilities benefit from educational technology - 8 (32%)
- Providing Devices to all families is equitable, ensuring equal access – 14 (56%)
- I trust the school board and teachers to make the right decision for our kids – 14 (56%)

Please expand on your reasons for being satisfied with the district's school-issued device usage: (randomly selected 50% of 18 comments):

“The activities my children have done on their Chromebooks engaged them and challenged them, to the point one child raced ahead in math. She was able to focus better in an interactive game than in the noisy classroom.”

“Based on my child- the computers are not used often and we are in a technological world now so they do need some practice. Although I feel very limited it’s important as they can use screens outside of school hours under parental supervision”

“My child says they only use them about 15-20 minutes a day. I don’t think that is overuse. I would prefer if her Chromebook stayed at school, since it is not used at home.”

“It seems ok. At the age my children are, I feel like they shouldn’t be overly exposed. It appears exposure is just enough.”

“I wanted to share how satisfied I am with the use of Chromebooks in the Nyack School District. From a parent’s perspective, they’ve been a really positive tool for learning. Chromebooks make it easier for students to stay organized, access assignments, and collaborate with teachers and classmates. I love that my child can use the same platform at school and at home—it creates consistency and helps families stay connected to what’s happening in the classroom. Tools like Google Classroom, Docs, and Slides also build important digital skills that kids will need as they grow. I also appreciate that Chromebooks are simple, reliable, and less distracting than many other devices. They’re great for research, writing, presentations, and creative projects, and they help level the playing field so every student has access to the same learning resources. I truly believe expanding the use of Chromebooks would benefit even more students across the district. More access means more opportunities for personalized learning, better communication between school and home, and stronger preparation for the digital world our kids are growing up in. Thank you for the thoughtful work you’re doing to support students and families. I’m grateful to be part of a district that continues to invest in modern, effective learning tools.”

“It’s ok for kids to be familiar with computer usage, but would like the percentage of their interactions with them to be less.”

“It helps organization and not losing assignments, everything is in the same place. It also makes it easier to make up missing work from when you are sick.”

“Computer based activities are not the only learning tools teachers use.”

“I do believe in this day and age it is easier than carrying all the textbooks and papers. WHAT I do NOT like is that kids are typing everything they are not being taught

penmanship, vocabulary, spelling and proper grammar and abilities to write a paper on their own.”

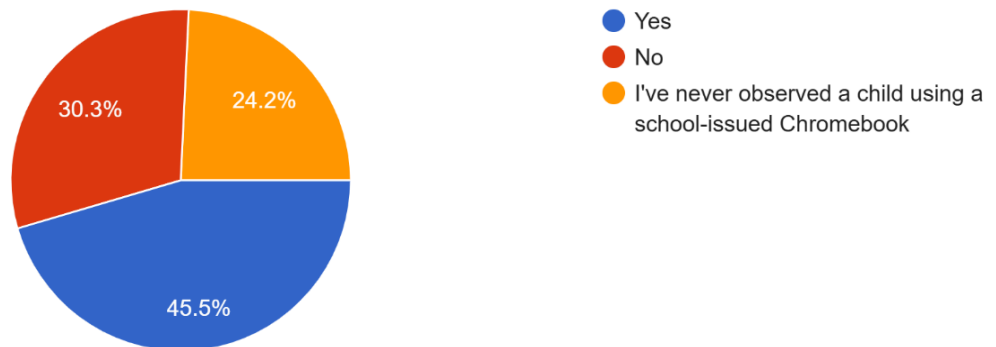
“It is a modern tool for modern kids to prepare them for skills they will need in the future.”

“My child is learning and doesn’t seem to be distracted by or reliant on the technology.”

3. Non-Academic Usage

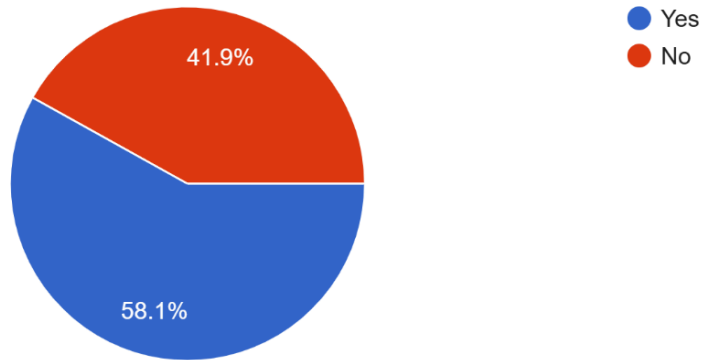
If you are a parent, have you ever found your child using the school-issued device for non-academic purposes (playing games, browsing the general in...en they are supposed to be completing homework?)

132 responses



Have you ever personally observed ANY students or children (not only yours) using the school-issued device for non-academic purposes (pl..., browsing the general internet, watching videos)?

136 responses

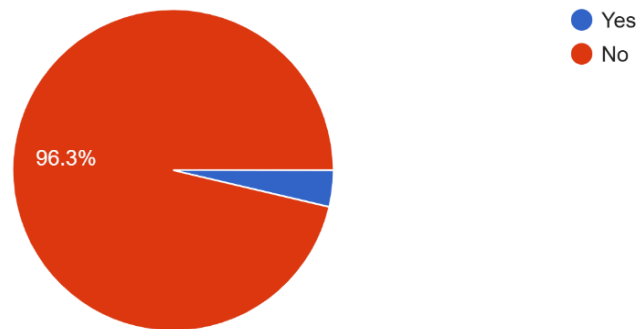


Please select the types of non-academic use of school-issued devices that you have personally encountered or heard about.

- Browsing internet – 51 (64.6%)
- Videos (i.e. watching Youtube) – 43 (54.4%)
- Video games - 60 (75.9%)
- Social media – 6 (7.6%)

Are you aware of any illegal or criminal activity facilitated by a Nyack school-issued Chromebook (i.e. abuse, harassment, stalking, threats)?

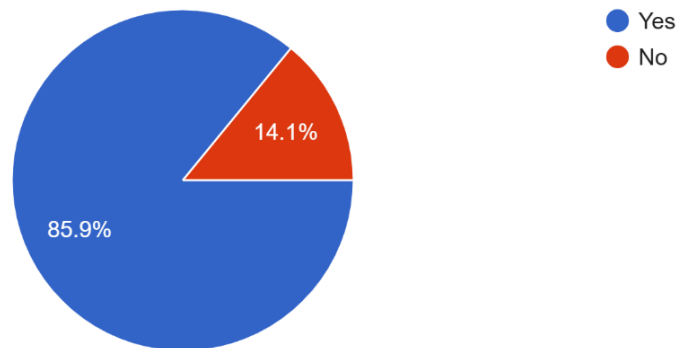
136 responses



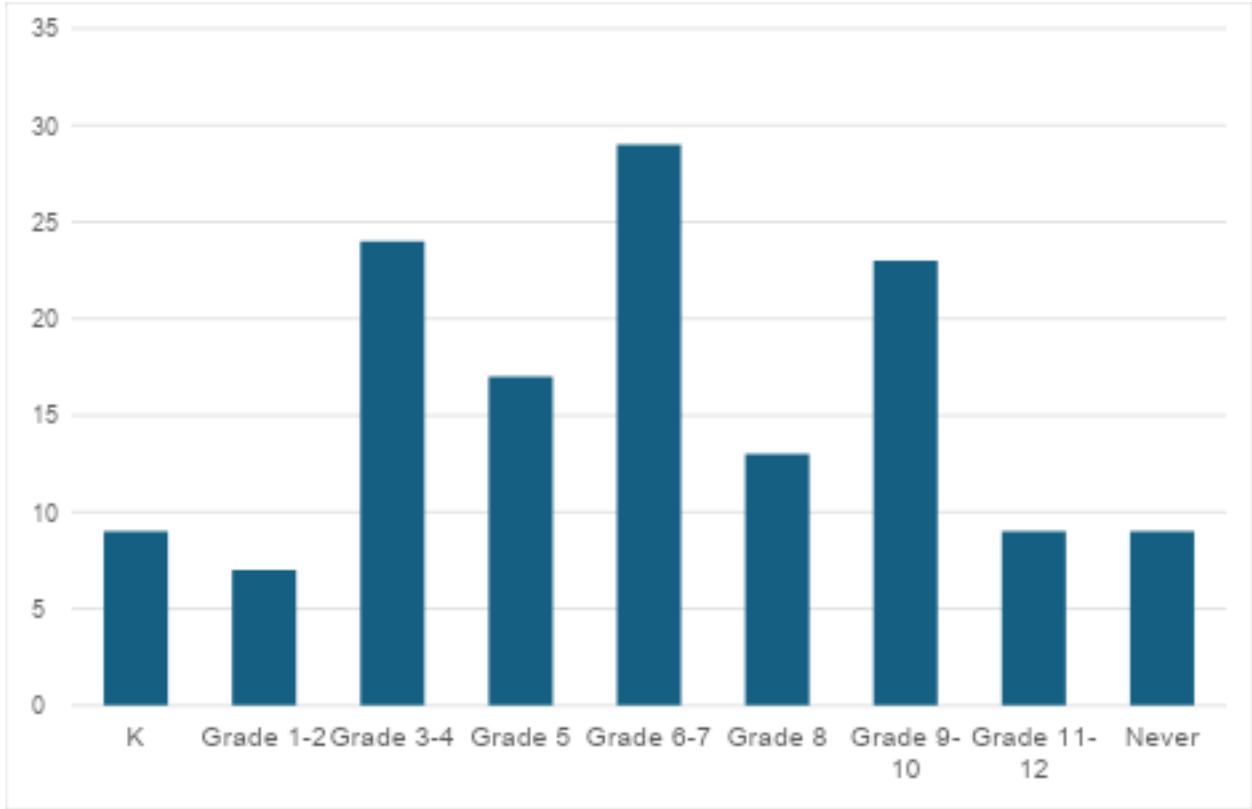
4. Parent Preferences

Would you like increased use of textbooks, workbooks, pencils, and paper in place of screen-based instruction and homework?

135 responses

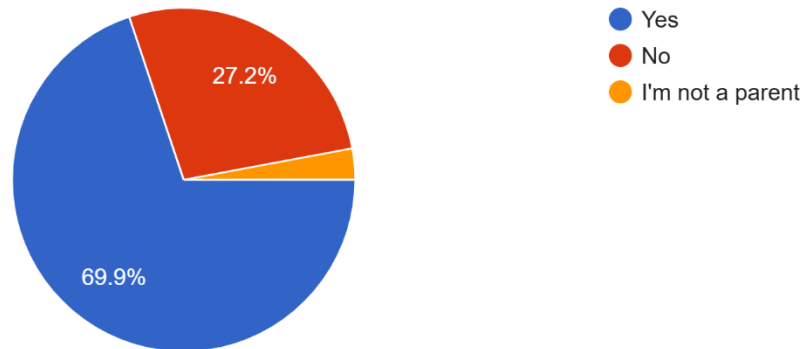


Ideally, at what age do you think a student should start using a personal touchscreen device? (Note: in Nyack schools, children officially are meant to begin using such devices in kindergarten)



If you're a parent, would you like an opportunity to opt your child out of screen-based instruction and homework?

136 responses



5. Extended Commentary

If you'd like, please share any other views (positive or negative) you or your child may have about technology use in Nyack schools (Randomly selected 50% of comments):

“Overall, the use of Chromebooks has been a detriment to my child’s education. She has learned to hide behind the screen and avoid active engagement with the curriculum.”

“I see no reason to send chrome books home. They become video games devices in the afternoon school programs whether the student can take theirs home or not.”

“They are stuff to the screen all day. If and only if they do any after school activities are they off I. They get home and back to the screens because of homework. As well as teachers sending assignments at 8pm due next day. These kids need a break. Most of them cant even write properly because everything is done in computers”

“I want my child to learn appropriate use of technology at the right time in her school life, but 3rd grade is too early especially to be carrying it around everywhere with her and bringing it home. I also don’t understand any purpose behind it at school right now since my child says it’s only for breaks and recess.”

“We need to include principles of computer science and coding earlier in the curriculum, particularly for girls.”

“As a student, I think that technology use in Nyack schools is a problem because there is a very low level of social interaction between students. The technology also becomes a problem when the "gamified" learning method is employed. This attempt to engage the students is, in my experience as a student, both a childish way to test the knowledge of high schoolers and an ineffective way to help them to retain information. The purpose of the gamified learning method seems to be solely to teach students that getting the right answer is more important than how you get it.”

“It’s just too much. They are always at a screen.”

“We can expect more of these kids than passive screen learning.”

“I would like to see the use of YouTube videos on smart boards reigned in, or even replaced with whiteboards, chalk, projectors, or whatever surfaces that don't play videos and promote engaged human-to-human learning.

I have witnessed gratuitous YouTube in classrooms as a visitor, and I hear about all the brain breaks and mind-numbing AI-animated marble track videos (and other AI slop) that are used as a sedative for the kids at the end of the day. I would much prefer classrooms hand out paper and crayons or just challenge the students to sit quietly or reflect on their day, or share roses & thorns with each other to build social/emotional skills, ANYTHING but watch YouTube in school.

Additionally, in my first graders' class, they watch a YouTuber read them stories. I asked him, does your teacher read you stories? Honestly, this is not OK.”

“Students are losing dexterity in their fingers due to a lack of physical writing and handwork. Studying is way more productive when students hand write their notes. Blue screen light is terrible for students' eyes. Tests need to be given on paper with scratch paper available so they can show their work so the teachers could see if mistakes are silly errors or a lack of understanding the concepts. I could go on and on and on.”

“I would love the use of technology to be replaced with more project based learning. No more worksheets! The children should work in pairs or as a group to resolve a question...more hands on learning. Perhaps specialists can drop into classrooms to help support this instead of money going towards new computer programs.”

“There is, ostensibly, a ban on cell-phone use in New York public schools. Effectively, in Nyack Public Schools this does not appear to be the case at all. My child doesn't bring a cell phone to school, and as a result has *missed out* on official school activities (like practice for a team sport, the schedule for which was *only* communicated via a smartphone app). Children regularly use their phones in class and in between classes, and as far as I am aware they are only *rarely* reprimanded if caught. I've heard of one instance of cheating, where a student used ChatGPT on their cell phone to pass a test. With few exceptions, so-called *personal* devices are inherently ruinous to general education, precisely because they draw one's focus away from a *shared* subject, *shared* material, and *shared* acquisition of the subject/skills at hand. The prospect for genuine conviviality deteriorates because there is no way any more for it take root *unmediated*. To say nothing of the damage to children's ability to sustain concentration or attention for any significant period of time.”

“We just moved a couple of weeks ago. Chromebooks at our new school in CT are only for use in school and never sent home. Never understood why you sent the computers home. Kids used them on the bus and nonstop played trash games. Half the time they were dropped carelessly. They should be kept at school all the time. Too much liability sending them home with kids.”

“I said “never” to the question about personal device use in this context, where the guidelines are so broad that they basically don’t matter. My husband is a teacher in NYC and his high schoolers use devices to type essays in class but he’s blocked everything except Microsoft word and has strict controls over what they see and access and when - I feel okay with that. I just don’t trust our district given their lack of communication and unwillingness to engage parents and also unspecific policies. Also my daughter may be using a Chromebook - I don’t know - but being in kindergarten I’m very concerned about screentime. They watch these awful AI videos as brain breaks and they watch videos in gym, library, music, their regular classes - I don’t understand why! Why do they watch a video of someone reading a book to them instead of having the teacher read? Why do they watch a video of a game identifying a song instead of the teacher just playing the song? Screens are so ubiquitous already and showing her things I don’t think are necessary or in line with our parental judgment.”

“I understand the need to use computers and learn how to navigate, type, etc. However I believe books are needed for supplemental teaching. Notebooks are needed to rewrite, process thoughts & solidify teachings. I think gim kits for review & computer usage for rewards is unnecessary.”

“A tech opt out seems infeasible and complicated for teachers to honor. I am opposed to a tech opt out until I understand if/how teachers could implement it without undue burden.”

“I understand that tech is part of our reality. I will also say that since having an options for screens my kid has shown much less resistance to going to school. I just wish it were less and not instead of social time.”

“The vocal minority of anti-screentime parents on our community are damaging education.”

“I mainly feel screen time in schools should be limited - although not non existent as this is the world we live in now and it will only increase with time. However, I feel

writing with pencils and paper and having social interaction during school hours far outweighs the use of technology during school hours.”

“Technology is a defining part of 21st-century life, so this conversation rarely has simple answers. While our children ultimately need to be tech-literate, they also need to be grounded in the hard work of thinking. We must help them develop resilience and resourcefulness in the face of boredom. When children look to a screen more than the world around them for learning, presence, and stimulation, something vital is lost.”

“My concern is less about general use of Chromebooks (they do need to learn how to research and write papers in upper elementary) than about use of them for downtime (non academic games, videos etc) especially during indoor recess. Also deeply concerned about the push of AI (still not regulated and using our kids to experiment with) to replace the role of our talented and experienced human teachers. Kids need to learn and develop their own abilities to know when AI might be useful, but also identify when it suggests incorrect information. In high school, kids will need to build skills to navigate this new technology safely without over/relying on it.”

“My daughter's experience at Liberty Elementary school has included little to no screen time use for instruction. The device is used for computer-based testing and ed tech programs to reinforce skills. This is a correct usage of technology and I applaud her teachers. In middle school, the quality of the learning experiences my son uses on technology are subpar. Review games allow for only multiple choice responses, a very low-level of understanding (recall). It seems as though students are using devices for a large percentage of in-class learning, which is not ideal. Programs like Membeam and IXL are good for building skills and practice outside of school, but should not replace teacher instruction. Google docs for extended writing tasks could allow for peer and teacher feedback to improve quality, but I rarely if ever see the tech utilized in this way. I agree in 7th grade the use of Google Classroom and email is a great way for teachers to communicate about tasks and due dates, organize and share digital materials, and communicate. But in class device time should be severely reduced. I believe my child rushes to complete work so he can play games or communicate with peers via google docs.”

“I don't necessarily want to opt my kids out of screen based instruction or homework- I want assigned screen time to be meaningful and helpful. And for teachers to think

twice about assigning them over other reliable methods. It should be a bit more fluid as far as when kids are asked to use the screens.”

“Technology is important, but has its place. It is never okay to let kids use a device without supervision if they are just learning how to operate a computer.”

“If tech giants don’t allow their children to learn on computers we should pay attention.”

“The entire approach of this technology department is unhelpful. And I’m afraid this survey may even push them in a direction that is additionally unhelpful and defensive. Technology can be an incredible tool and kids do need understand how to use technology - but as a tool for exploration, invention, and implementation. The fundamentals of thinking creatively and independently need to be encouraged and developed first and foremost before technology as a tool can be introduced. This is not new. The research abounds. There is a reason why the children of CEOs of technology companies send their kids to elementary and middle schools that do NOT have technology implemented the way Nyack Schools does. Their technology, if any, is creative based, not just a portal or a vehicle to deliver digitized worksheets. But those schools also value supporting teachers in learning and implementing best practices around technology in an educational setting.”

“My child would be slated to start _____ in kindergarten in the fall but we’re considering other options that would keep our kid away from screens at least during early elementary.”

“I’m not sure many of us really understand the extent, pace and scope that AI is changing education, I’d love if the district were more open about how they are moving forward with understanding this and how they plan to use it, training teachers, using it for planning, grading, assessing how children are performing, and how personal identity will be protected etc I do not think parents know that they can request to have paper homework. Why is this not common knowledge?”

“I feel that children are thrust into using computers for too many things starting in 6th grade without proper guidance or advance preparation. I also feel that the physical act of writing things down on paper with a pencil better reinforces things in children’s brains... And adult brains for that matter!”

“I am worried about the future, which will be an A.I., technology-based place if we don’t do something.”

“Chromebooks have ruined learning”

“I would like more tactile methods to be used, pencils, paper, physical books, chalk/white boards, and it also makes me sad that cursive handwriting is not taught anymore.”

“I understand we live in a tech heavy world. But let’s also look at what tech does to young minds (ages 5-8 especially).”

“I absolutely want an opt-out option for Chromebook usage and want my child strictly on paper and pencil all the way through 5th grade, at least. I do not want my child bringing home a Chromebook starting in 3rd grade. That is too young—a very vulnerable age for tech-distractions and gamification addiction.”

“The blue light affects their eyes and the overall work-load posted to them is stressful. Also, their overall ability to learn, use handwriting, and retain information is not improving. I understand “typing” is helpful but with spell-check, automatic grammar features, and AI; they are really not using their own brains to learn these important tasks.”

“I think having an "Opt Out" is not the way, we either all do it or none of us do. Maybe that's shortsighted but I think there are too many studies now showing that screen time is a problem and that should be enough for a district like Nyacks to reconsider how chromebooks are used, at the elementary level especially.”

“The classes my child enjoys at the high school are the classes in which discussion, debate, and engagement with the teacher and other students replace the use of screens. These classes are a huge relief to my child, in a school day overwhelmed by screen use.”

“Parents should never have opt out options. If you don’t like the public schools choices pay for private schools.”

“In general they spend too much time on screens in school”

“On days when the weather is bad kids should not be using their Chromebooks instead of recess. Recess is supposed to get their energy out, and for them to move their bodies. We have to remember that computers were not a thing in school not long ago and it is totally possible for kids to be entertained/rewarded and have fun without screens.”

“There is a role for electronic devices but it should be focused on how to use electronic devices to gather knowledge. The electronic devices shouldn’t be the basis of the knowledge they are learning in school.”

“I don’t think there is a place for Chromebook’s in elementary school until 4th grader when they should start learning how to do some basic writing. I think they use the Chromebook way too much in middle school.”

“I would FAR prefer experiential and hands-on learning to take place. Less screen-time, fewer worksheets, more experiments, group projects, and hands-on.”

“My children enjoy access to chromebooks but they are too young to recognize the drawbacks including lessened desire to be creative and to entertain themselves with "Analog" activities. I think that the schools have a good balance of technology access in school but should develop a clearer awareness that young brains tend to generalize access and have a difficult time compartmentalizing access to devices that are being normalized in school. I would like a clear defined purpose and would also like for kids to not be penalized when they do cross boundaries as they are learning to use technology. I recently received an email about my six year old playing video games on a chromebook--why is he being expected not to do that? He is very smart and the schools should be accountable for access and limiting such access.”

“Having taught in the high school in the past, after coming from teaching in Brooklyn, I was aghast at the lack of an enforced cell phone policy in the high school.”

“While I think it would be amazing to wait on the devices until HS, what I think is important is that the children continue to learn at a young age personal safety and an ability to review content as a critical thinker. It's essential that the kids learn how to use technology. We can't ignore that. But if we can wait, give them more of their creative and free-spirited childhood, then when they get the tech in their hands at school, we can support them to apply a different lens (and less dependency) on the technology itself. I also want them to know how to observe and use AI, engineering design software, and other creative tools in a way that will be essential for their future. I'm not an educator, so I trust our schools to be designing how best to approach this massive wave of change, but I don't think every assignment in the form of a powerpoint deck is a good use of technology in education. I'm interested to see how customized learning through AI tutors and other innovations may help our kids actually spend less time on screens and more time learning social skills and

creativity, the skills that will be most essential for an unknown future! That's my two cents! Thanks for this survey."

"In Kindergarten it's completely unnecessary that screens are used - even for a "brain break". The science behind screens proves that screens are not ever giving kids a break and making their ability to regulate their emotions worse."

"The school system is rudderless on this issue. They are locked into an auto-adopt mentality which prevents them from walking back obvious mistakes and errors. There should not be Chromebooks in K-5. There is no way to stop students from using the devices inappropriately, so you simply shouldn't distribute them. There is no solid evidence of overall benefit for children this age. Parents are trying to keep their kids away from screens, which will be increasingly harmful as the years go by, and the system is sabotaging those efforts. The school board's inability to respond to these concerns in a meaningful way is eroding trust in the system. People who would never even have dreamed about homeschooling or private school are now openly considering those options. They believe that the school is captured by corporate interests. The technology director, Darlene Nicolosi, has no particular expertise in questions of child health and safety and she should be far more pro-active on this issue, listening to the community and responding directly to their concerns. At present, she isn't even answering emails. That is someone who has refused to do their job."

"Children need exposure and lessons on how to use devices appropriately. I don't think it is beneficial to remove technology based instruction in the world we live in. I think students would also benefit from periodic lessons on how to use those devices. I am a teacher myself and often observe students in 8th grade struggling to type and use basic functions on Google platforms."

"I'd prefer they use the computer only at school or only at home. This way their eyes and minds can get a break at least part of the day. This would eliminate the need to carry such a heavy bag back and forth each day. It would also give them more time to work on handwriting! Even script!"

"Too much screen based instruction overall"

"I would like more discussion around technology implementation for teachers and parents, allowing for critical dialogue around the topic. I would also like to see a more comprehensive digital/social media literacy class- that helps students learn the benefits and risks of various technologies- including social media and AI. I think the

kids would like to be a part of these conversations- and it is so very important to make them critical consumers of these applications. It can't be all on what the parents teach at home."

"Technology can be a tool but isn't administered in consistent ways to ensure safe and effective use. The use of screens should be replaced by more time spent outdoors, experiential learning, partner/group exercises, and cross-learning between ages and subject matters to expand learning elasticity, not just subject matter "content"

"I think that controlled use of a laptop with a time cap per day or per class (let's say 1-2 hours total) to learn basic computer literacy and tools and programs is ok once kids hit middle school and high school. I am more concerned about excessive use and use of laptops during down time."

"I don't believe a complete opt out is possible or the right option. Kids will be using screens throughout their lives, and there must be some level of familiarity. The overall time spent on screens, at this point, though is too much. Overall, research does show that more traditional methods of teaching and learning, with a pen, pencil, paper, etc, can lead to better learning outcomes. I know many teachers are overwhelmed, underpaid, underappreciated, even under attack in this political climate, and have had the use of technology pushed on them both during their own education and by school districts, whether this is something they want or not for their classrooms. Still, I feel that technology has become a crutch for some. Work on a computer can also be quite solitary. There is less interaction when everyone is staring at their own screen, and too many kids no longer know how to talk to each other, to be in real-life community with their peers, to be who they really are, not a on screen persona."

"I would like to know if the District has ever kept any empirical records on the amount of minutes any given class is spending on individual screens—not for punitive measures, but for data analysis. What is the *max* amount of time an elementary student has been assigned to work on an individual screen on any given day? Is that known? If not, why not? What is the District policy? Teachers can see screen time analyses of most student apps, can this information (login information) be shared with parents so we may be aware if, for example, our student has spent hours on a screen? I simply don't know how much time is "too much" for any given class/app/teacher."

“Our children’s future is in your hands! Please provide us with option to opt-out (or severely limit) of Chromebook usage in class”

“I like some of the programs. But I’d rather see my child read then go on Lexia!”

“It CANNOT replace human to human interaction and play based childhood. Our children deserve a play based childhood where play is first and foremost and play is done IN REAL LIFE (not a video game).”

“My kids are young however they are going to need to know and understand how to use technology. It’s only increasing in the world!”

“Kids at elementary level and kindergarten should have limited screen time in general and personal devices make it harder to monitor and can enforce bad habits. Exposure in school to personal electronic devices should be limited until high school.”

“I would like to see the use of YouTube videos on smart boards reigned in, or even replaced with whiteboards, chalk, projectors, or whatever surfaces that don't play videos and promote engaged human-to-human learning. I have witnessed gratuitous YouTube in classrooms as a visitor, and I hear about all the brain breaks and mind-numbing AI-animated marble track videos (and other AI slop) that are used as a sedative for the kids at the end of the day. I would much prefer classrooms hand out paper and crayons or just challenge the students to sit quietly or reflect on their day, or share roses & thorns with each other to build social/emotional skills, ANYTHING but watch YouTube in school. Additionally, in my first graders' class, they watch a YouTuber read them stories. I asked him, does your teacher read you stories? Honestly, this is not OK. THE SMART BOARDS NEED TO GO. They are a crutch.”

“There is no reason a child should EVER be watching YouTube in school. YouTube should be banned immediately. Elementary grades, at least k-3 are better off with white boards or chalk boards than smart boards. The screens are a distraction. Laptops should only be used in digitally native experiences, like typing, but otherwise should be focused junior high and high school students.”

“Need thoughtful balance between developing motor skills and knowledge With and without computers”

“My kids thrive in hands-on, project based open-ended learning and problem solving such as those often used in the STREAM class and sometimes in other classes. They are craving this type of learning and I hope to continue to see more of it.”

“The kids seem to have opportunity to use Chromebooks during school day with little supervision. Perhaps during indoor recess. They have been playing music (some with explicit lyrics), locating video games on odd websites including some that are violent and have guns and shooting involved. Also, the 4th graders are allowed to bring their Chromebooks home any time they want, even if they only have an academic need for them very occasionally. This undermines family screen time rules.”

“Thanks for asking for parent feedback. This has long been overdue. I hope you will use this feedback to give parents more say about screen access, especially at home. I also hope to have an opportunity to provide feedback when my kids are in middle school. I have friends whose children have found ways to access inappropriate content on Nyack devices and have even purchased items that were sent to their home unbeknownst to the parents! Screen time is definitely an issue for my children and causes daily problems for us. It is robbing them of their innate creativity and ability to initiate self-directed play. I do not like their home access to chromebooks at all. I also don't appreciate them using Chromebooks for indoor recess. Children need time to socialize and problem solve with each other. Recess is meant to be that time. Being stimulated by screens is not truly a brain break and does not teach the life lessons that all humans need to learn through free play.”

“No chromebooks , get enrichment programs. Mathe language, teachers are being lazy because of them , my kids are bored in school and tell me they are not learning. Extremely disappointed in [elementary school] and we moved here partly for school”

“So I think screens vs. pencil and paper/ notebooks is a false dialectic. I would like to opt [child] out of screens when they are not necessary as a tool. However, in [their] IEP, for example, [they] can use speech to text to write and I would like [them] to be able to continue to do this. Screens can be beneficial to watch a video or see images etc. I get that. Use screens when you need to use screens. But the thing screens should not replace are hands-on activities (not pencil and paper).”

“Research indicates that excessive screen time may negatively affect elementary children's brain development. A study in JAMA Pediatrics (Hutton et al., 2019) found that higher screen use was associated with differences in brain white matter that supports language and literacy. NIH research has also linked heavy screen use to

changes in areas of the brain responsible for attention and executive functioning. Because children's brains are still developing, screen use should be intentional and balanced with hands-on, language-rich learning experiences."

"To be fair, personal laptops should not be allowed in school, especially for quizzes or tests. This will help with the integrity of school testing."

"Technology is great but kids should still be taught the fundamentals of what the school system refers to as old fashioned and antiquated. Penmanship, spelling, vocabulary, cursive, etc."

"I'm all for technology use in the classroom and trust educators to handle appropriately."

"While I selected that the school should never have computers and my child should have the opportunity to opt out the real answer is that the school work with the computers could happen in the school only. And not as brain breaks not as rewards. Also I think that the IT staff needs to be much better at working on preventing the children from breaking the firewall."

"Due to current research and data I believe it is imperative that we re-assess the use of screens and computers in academic environments. There is much research that the current cohort of children are not achieving the same level of academic progress or critical thinking skills which was common in prior generations. As an educator myself I believe the use of screens is a means to ease instruction and make it formulaic which makes it easier to memorize the core curriculum but lacks children learning how to be thinkers long term."

"The last question forced an answer that's over simplified. I would not want to opt my child out of screen based learning if other kids were doing mostly screen based learning unless there was a well managed balance between both approaches. I also imagine it would be challenging for teachers to have different kids using different modalities. As much as I think electronic or screen base learning should be limited if and when possible I also think things have to be practical. In general, I would like everyone to be doing less screen based learning."

"I wouldn't want my kid to be the ONE kid not using a device but I'd love to see a decrease in their use overall. I don't want my kids reading books on the Chromebook. I want my kid to write out work/reports sometimes."

“I realize it's very hard to monitor and kids will always find workarounds, it just seems like they have way too much unsupervised access to the devices.”

“I think use of technology is necessary in school and a vital part of today's education. What I object to is technology being used as entertainment at school (or at home on school devices under the pretense of it being educational) taking the place of social interaction and engaging kids in physical activities. I also have significant concerns that both my children came home this week saying that they watched a movie at school, particularly in a week where 2 days have already been lost to snow days. I am strongly of the opinion that school is a place for learning, establishing social networks, and developing life skills. Movies should be an out-of-school activity unless there is a learning component to them.”

“I know the district has opted in to some AI programming, and I am fundamentally against AI, not just for children. We are in water bankruptcy due to AI data centers, and that is detrimental to the environment and to our survival. We need to be using less AI (if not none), not bringing it into schools.”

“I think it's a good thing for all kids to know but every parent has a right to opt out.”

“I have had concerns on this in the past. None currently. More transparency from the district and from the individual teachers on usage (when/why/how) would be appreciated however.”

“Although I answered no to increasing the use of pencils, workbooks, etc- i think a balanced usage of computer and paper/pen/pencil would be ideal. I do believe kids should learn to write in cursive, and practice writing via paper- but I think they do already. I am unsure. If not, I believe it is good practice. Their future is technological, which they should be prepared for. A nice balance between it all is best.”