



WHITE PAPER

K-12 Education Guide to Distance Learning

5 Ways to Learn Anywhere



With a continued global health crisis, schools are finding it more important now than ever to adapt teaching practices and learning environments to accommodate an at-home, remote learning experience. With these changes, technology has also become increasingly more important, and the main means of empowering teachers to connect with students.

In order to offer support with hybrid or fully remote classrooms, Jamf School, the Apple management solution built specifically for education, is empowering schools with Learn Anywhere — a complete Apple education solution for schools, teachers, students and parents looking to communicate, use engaging resources and assess learning objectives from any environment.

This guide takes a deep-dive into important educational technology considerations that should be part of any school's list of priorities. We'll cover how each of these can be improved and maintained to facilitate successful distance learning:

- Safety
- Communication
- Engagement
- Assessment
- Scheduling

By making this white paper your guide, you'll help ensure teachers, students and parents have the tools they need to succeed with learning – no matter where it's taking place.

Safety

In any crisis, the first concern is safety, physical or emotional.

Much focus in recent years has been on physical security in schools. With the pandemic, a greater emphasis is now being placed on the emotional well-being of all involved. As a teacher, knowing a student hadn't eaten breakfast or was up late caring for siblings while their single parent was working makes a huge difference on their readiness for class. Those stressors may remain; however, the new cause of potential stress magnifies the importance of being able to adjust due to factors that are out of an educator's control.

For many working in schools, the dilemmas of having children at home needing instructional help, attempting to maintain some stability or family routine, and trying to continue their ability to work to provide for their families is stressing them beyond any other time in their lives. Hiring more social workers or school counselors is a great step, and technology also has a role to play in connecting families with those who can assist them. Organizations are hiring more support staff, planning tiered approaches toward interventions, keeping purposeful attention and watching for warning signs. For students, there is the recognition that play motivates, as does the ability to connect safely with their classmates and peers.

To maintain quality connections and check in on the well-being of parents and students, teachers can now turn to technology to keep lines of communication open. For instance, using Chat functionality within Jamf School, teacher and student can communicate and facilitate learning on more of a personal level — all without calling attention to the student or requiring them to be in the same physical space. And this is all done through the Jamf Student app, which facilitates secure, two-way communication.

Addressing the emotional well-being of everyone involved remains a crucial consideration and addressing this head on requires a personal connection and proactive adjustment to meet all the needs of parties involved.



Communication

Being able to adjust as the teaching and learning situation changes requires a new level of “with-it-ness” by the teacher.

But how can an educator put their technology to proper use? In addition to supporting students working at their own pace, having pre-recorded introductions or instructions can free up a teacher to attend to a live chat while the video plays. While there was also an initial concern with video conferencing applications being used out of necessity, those security and safety worries have been mitigated and seen as issues worth resolving due to the overwhelming benefits of connecting students with teacher, teachers with parents, and teachers with teachers. Many organizations using video conferencing tools prior to the rapid closure of schools had already tested, tweaked and embraced them.

Remote Class is a feature of the Jamf School Teacher app that enhances communication on iPad in a 1-to-1 or shared-device environment. This feature empowers educators with an easy and secure way of connecting with students through Zoom, Microsoft Teams or Google Meet. Using the app, a teacher can easily deploy a conference link to a student’s iPad in Jamf School Student — creating a meeting in a quick click. For students, schools with Managed Apple IDs can choose to allow students to use them for iMessage or Group FaceTime which is a phenomenal way to collaborate in real time.

Tools that incorporate video conferencing as a routine aspect of education and seek solutions that directly integrate into them will simplify teachers’ ability to engage with students and others. Getting teachers to shift their instruction techniques with aid of using technology must first be shown to save time, and secondly to reduce the complexities already in their classroom, regardless of brick and mortar, virtual or a hybrid model.



Engagement

We've all experienced the presenter or lecturer continuing on unaware that only a few members of their audience are actually paying attention or engaged.

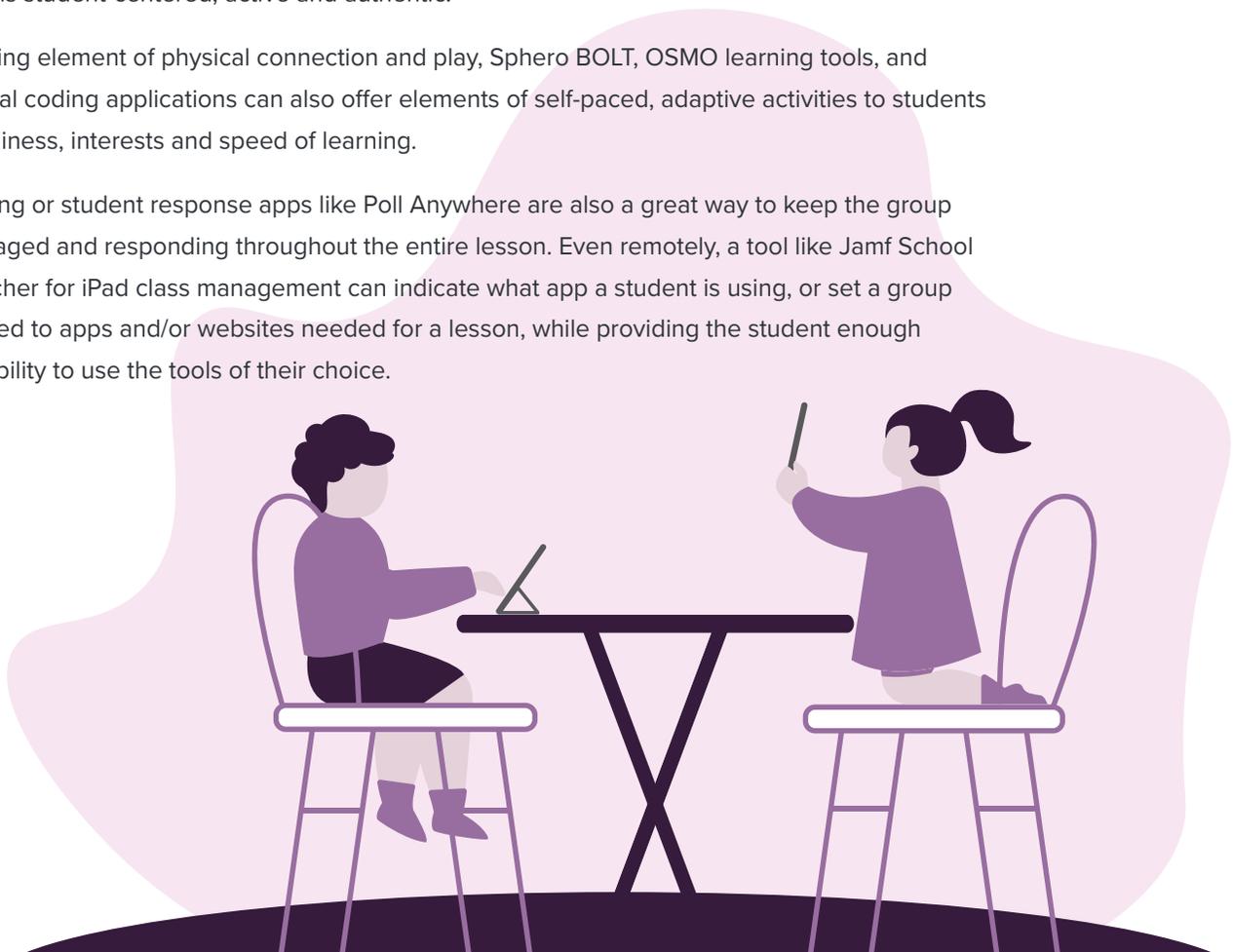
The same effect happens in the classroom and adding remote learners increases the potential for lack of engagement. However, we all also know the teacher who seems to have eyes in the back of their head. They're aware of everything going on while juggling a lesson, using proximity to casually move around the room, refocusing students without them really noticing. Luckily, with the help of Jamf School and Learn Anywhere, technology can help provide this same empowerment to teachers, even remotely.

For example, using the Jamf School Teacher app, teachers can quickly identify which students may need help and require attention. Students can "raise their hand" to alert a teacher when help is needed and teachers can easily reply via messages, email or start a Remote Class for a one-on-one help session.

With remote learning, transitioning to digital content requires a shift from basic substitution of assignments to self-directed and enriching activities. This is not a new concept, many educational organizations have been working to improve the learning experience for all students with an equal focus on combining content knowledge, technology and teacher pedagogy (TPaCK). Using models like SAMR (substitution, augmentation, modification and redefinition), organizations have shifted from basic use of technology to transforming learning that is student-centered, active and authentic.

Adding element of physical connection and play, Sphero BOLT, OSMO learning tools, and virtual coding applications can also offer elements of self-paced, adaptive activities to students readiness, interests and speed of learning.

Polling or student response apps like Poll Anywhere are also a great way to keep the group engaged and responding throughout the entire lesson. Even remotely, a tool like Jamf School Teacher for iPad class management can indicate what app a student is using, or set a group limited to apps and/or websites needed for a lesson, while providing the student enough flexibility to use the tools of their choice.



Assessment

Formative and summative evaluation of learning requires adaptation and modification to traditional forms.

Using technology for formative, in the moment or day-to-day assessment of students' progress has allowed educators to personalize and adjust material and content to individual learner needs, readiness and pace. Technology can also assist with summative, end-of-unit, term or annual exams to now measure abilities over knowledge.

There is also an opportunity through the use of video creation, recorded screen markup and virtual proctoring to adapt assessments to capture and allow for students to demonstrate the understanding and ability to apply what they have learned.

With the Jamf Assessment app, a teacher or proctor can see both a live recording of the screen and video of the student through the camera: meeting high-stakes exam security requirements and providing educators with a secure way to monitor educational progress.

How does it work?

1. The teacher starts a video conference session on their iPad and invites the student. Districts using Jamf School can leverage the Remote Class feature to make this a one-click operation.
2. Student joins the video conference and shares their screen.
3. The student opens the Jamf Assessment app which is pre-configured to show the exam and a camera preview to the left.
4. The test administrator can now see and hear the student, as well as monitor on-screen activity.

As opposed to traditional testing and assessment, there are also educational tools that allow students to actually demonstrate learning. Explain Everything and SeeSaw are two applications specifically designed for learners to explain in visual and audio form what they have learned. Visual means for expression offer students to showcase their abilities and knowledge beyond basic quizzes or in-person presentations and in a format that makes connecting ideas clear and relatable. Forms of portfolio documentation and assessment have been around for decades. Having SeeSaw as a digital portfolio combines the ability for a student to display and store their work, while providing teachers organization and structure to the assigned activities.

Scheduling

Creating a solid schedule and planning for multiple education environments and scenarios is challenging, even for the best-prepared schools and organizations.

While many have embraced alternative calendars, shifting to rapidly changing statuses is new to almost everyone. If there is one key aspect of any plan for school to resume, it's flexibility. Alternative forms of school scheduling have been put into practice, attempted and desired well before the recent pandemic. Beyond modified calendars, an actual break from the five-day-a-week, six-hour day, 180-required-in-school approach are elements many schools have considered.

Learning from those experiencing success during the rapid transition to at-home learning, their emphasis on teacher readiness to use technology and on-going professional development has proven invaluable to smoothing the overnight switch to remote. Rather than having to introduce new systems and programs, these schools focused on reinforcing what they had and provided even greater levels of support, examples and continued training on what they had previously implemented.

The ability to apply agile changes to a student's device through flexible remote management can support a need to provide rapidly changing conditions. The same desire to provide personalized experiences for all students supports the same needs as schools adjust to learners being in class one day, learning from home another, and growing as a learner.

Adjusting privileges on a device has long been an ability used by schools looking to provide as-needed adjustment, now schools being forced into this model can rely on the same innovative technology that puts management in a teacher's hands during school hours and parents hands when class is not in session.

With Jamf School's Learn Anywhere, teachers can instantly restrict websites, apps, the camera and much more. Getting ready for class? Create a lesson profile to enable the apps designated for that class for productivity while preventing the viewing of any other apps, reducing student distraction. Or, even lock all student devices at once with a custom message. Teachers can also access helpful articles and multimedia with tips and tricks for teaching remotely.

Keeping to constantly changing schedules is also made easier with parent involvement. One way to make this easier is through the Jamf School Parent app. Jamf Parent uses the power of mobile device management (MDM) to provide management controls for parents, giving them the ability to limit apps and device functionality on student devices. Parents can access this on macOS, iOS and watchOS.





Create an enriching educational experience from anywhere

Facilitating distance learning is only going to be more commonplace — with or without health scares. With a plan in place and the right tools at the ready, transitioning from in-class to remote learning can be as easy as reciting the ABCs.

[Request Trial](#)

Or contact your preferred reseller of Apple devices to take Jamf for a free test drive.