

Apps for Middle School Teachers

ORGANIZATION APPS

Evernote-This app makes it easy to take notes at work and keeps the information at hand whenever you need to access it. It allows you to put notes in easy to find folders, email pictures, and send notes to coworkers directly from the app. It also allows the option of sharing information throughout the district by using the sharing feature.

Livebinders-This app allows you to organize your files in “binders” for teachers to share information and handouts with your students. More information will be provided with your Haiku training, but this app is a great way to share your teaching material through Haiku.

Dropbox-This app allows you to bring your photos, docs, and videos anywhere and share them easily with coworkers or students. This app allows you to send information easily, especially if you are trying to send a large amount of information like pictures or multiple files.

CLASS ASSIST APPS

Stick Pick-This app does cost 2.99, but it is worth it! First, you log your students’ names in the roster area per period. Each student is assigned a stick. Students can be picked randomly, or you can pick them through your created roster. This app uses Bloom’s Taxonomy to evaluate student’s oral language. You can email the information to other teachers, parents, or even to the student. Stick Pick can be used as a participation grade or to make it easier on the teacher to ensure each student has an opportunity to share his /her ideas in the classroom.

ClassDojo-This app helps you monitor your students’ positive and negative behaviors. You can use the suggestions created by the app maker or create your own; it ups to you! This app allows you to keep track of individual students and his/her behaviors to create a rewards system to suit your needs.

Remind 101- A texting app that allows you to text your students reminders about tests, apps, or anything else you would like to remind them of once they leave your classroom. You can text them log ins and passwords for completing homework on the computer, steps to get information online at home, or anything else you deem important to share with them before the next school day. The best part is they can’t text you back!

Tally- take tallies on almost anything in going on in or out of the classroom. Take tallies on a particular student, snapshot your screen when you are done, and email results to parents, teachers, the student, or keep a file per week on a particular student. You can keep tallies of behavior per class as a rewards system, or keep tallies for right answers on a review game. There are many options to help keep you organized with this app.

Sand Timer and Timer Plus- simple and easy apps to help you and your students keep track of time. On certain assignments, students love to visually see how much time they have left on the clock. My intervention kids love this app because it helps them divide their time on the assignment or test. Both apps work depending on what you need to keep track of time.

STUDENT LEARNING APPS

Show Me, Educreations, and Screen Chomp-These apps allow you to use your talents to show students a lesson, send it to parents, or even post it for other teachers to use. You can also pull lessons teachers already created to use in the classroom. Students can also apply these apps to make presentations. Screen Chomp is an easier version of the two, especially if you want the student to demonstrate the steps to a problem or breaking down parts of speech in a sentence, for example.

Prezi- This is used for presentations in a new way. It’s best to have students make their Prezi’s on the computer, and then they can display them or share them on their devices. If you go to the Prezi app and click on “Featured Prezis”, you can see some examples. This is a much more exciting way to show information than using the old “Power Point” method.

Quizlet- Create a teacher log in and password on the computer first. Develop your own quizzes, vocabulary practice, or material you would like your students to study. Many teachers have made their information public, so almost any lessons I have needed for class, I have found on Quizlet. Students log into your class, and can practice just about any subject using flashcards and games. Quizlet is a great resource to be used in the classroom or as an assignment for homework.

Socrative-Socrative is a smart student response system that allows teachers to engage their students with educational exercises and games. It runs on any kind of smart device, so the students can use the classroom computer, iPad, or personal device. Teachers can create quizzes or practice questions. You can create groups of students in the classroom to compete against each other using "Space Race". There are many activities to choose from to get the students excited about the material you are teaching.

Brainpop- this app can only be used if your school has purchased Brainpop through their school funds, but there is some free material that is useful as well. Use Brainpop to teach new material, or give students ready-made quizzes about a particular subject. My students love Brainpop and they never get tired of it. Use it to review material through the use of your Elmo for whole class instruction, or use it independently as a way for a student to make up work or provide more practice on a particular subject.

Instatube-Using YouTube can be a beneficial way for students to learn. However, logging into YouTube can be risky because you never know what material will appear on the screen. Instatube allows you to find segments you want your class to view to support your teaching material without the worry of having inappropriate material (such as commercials) come on the screen. You can create different files for separate units. This allows you to easily access them without the use of the internet or the worry that creator of the material changed the information since the last time you viewed it.

EXTRAS

Apps Gone Free- this is an app I use with my students or for myself to explore new apps that are free for one day only! If I find an app I know my students will benefit from using their own device, I tell them that day at school or I text them and let them know about the app. This a great tool to help try new apps out without paying for them.

Google Translate- This is a great app to communicate with parents who do not speak English as their first language. Translate any language into English text and you don't even have to type the words! You can use the microphone feature on the app to share your thoughts in print. This app will translate the words into the language you select. You can include a picture or even the student's information about his/her grade. You can then email it home or print it out to be sent home.

Root Words-Practice Greek and Latin roots with this helpful app.

GRE Vocab-Create flashcards and study away with this app. You can level how well you know the word, so once the vocabulary word is memorized, you can set that word to the side and concentrate on the ones you still don't know.

Idioms-Great examples of where the idiom originated from, how it evolved over time, and what it means today. Get the light version and if you like it, you can upgrade for more idioms to share with the class.