

# 352 Smartphone Apps For Students & Teachers

## Arranged By Category

### [By TeachThought Staff](#)

Mobile phones managed to mostly kick their classroom stigma once the iPhone, Android, Blackberry, and other PDA-cellular hybrids (also known as “smartphones,” but you knew that already) popped onto the scene. Thanks to the veritable Library of Alexandria of apps available on the respective markets, life can run that much smoother for professionals of all types. And that, of course, includes teachers.

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We’ve discovered a seemingly endless collection of smartphone apps that teachers can put to work in the classroom and beyond, creating a powerhouse of back-to-school mobile tools. Read on to discover 50 of the best smartphone apps for teachers, and share any personal favorites we’ve missed in the comments.

## For the Classroom (25)

### [Animoto](#)

Combine still photos and video footage to make creative slide shows in minutes. The app includes easy-to-use templates and a large library of free music. Educators are given access to unlimited videos, which can be exported to e-mails, blogs, and more.

*iOS and Android. Free.*

**Attendance** iPhone-enabled teachers adore this application allowing them to keep track of their students' classroom habits and even learn their names via flashcard.

**Bento** Keep a database on contacts, projects, upcoming events, due dates, and more with one of the most-acclaimed organization applications available.

**Blackboard Mobile Learn** Rather than an app for a classroom, Blackboard practically provides a classroom for an app, available on almost all smartphone and tablet platforms.

### **ClassDojo**

Enter real-time data about student behavior by assigning points for teamwork, creativity, and more. Information can be shared with parents and other staff members. *iOS. Free.*

**CourseSmart** Subscribers to this digital textbook services enjoy unlimited access to thousands of digital reads on their phones and tablet devices.

**eClicker Polling System** Available on the iPhone, the eClicker Suite lets teachers poll their students about anything and everything during class.

**Educreations Interactive Whiteboard** OK, so you actually download this app to an iPad, but Educreations Interactive Whiteboard still remains an essential edtech tool. As the title states, it turns the gadget into an easy-to-use method of drawing and diagramming in the classroom.

**Educreations**-This app makes it easy to create new videos for learning. For example, "it's a great tool for explaining math strategies with voice, pen and screen recorder," says TED-Ed community member Melissa Julian. "It also lets students make learning resources for other children to use."

**Evernote**-Teachers love this notetaking app — for good reason. "Evernote has allowed me to get rid of handouts. I just don't make them anymore," writes TED-Ed Innovative Educator Nicholas Provenzano in [this blog post](#). "All of my projects are shared with my students through our shared notebooks, and all assignments are posted on the Assignment shared notebook that is available for parents on my website. Traditionally, these handouts would be viewed by students then trashed. Now they can view them on Evernote and trees can be saved." To learn more from Nick about how to use Evernote in the classroom, read [The Epic Evernote Experiment](#).

**Explain Everything** -Explain Everything helps to take presentations to a whole new level. There's nothing wrong with PowerPoint, but presenting a subject can be more interactive and way cooler! Explain Everything is an interactive screen casting whiteboard. This means that you can make a presentation, and record everything you are drawing and saying. It lets your students document their learning by capturing photos, creating videos, designing presentations and making books. Let them record everything they do within the app to create high quality, creative, and meaningful presentation videos. As a teacher, you can easily make tutorials and instruction videos and send it to your students. A great app for flipped learning in a flipped classroom!

**Explain Everything**-Basically, it's an interactive whiteboard. "It's one of the most versatile apps you can have in your toolbox," says TED-Ed community member Caroline Taylor-Levey.

**Google Classroom** -With Google Classroom, you can invite your students to join your course. Within this course or lesson group, you can start a conversation with your students, ask a question, make an announcement or give an assignment. Students can enroll in a lesson group with the special code you gave them. That way, they

can follow the conversation and easily make the assignments. It's that simple. You could, for example, give your students a link to a BookWidgets exercise in Google Classroom. Students see this immediately on their smartphone and can get started right away. There's one thing you should keep in mind: you and your students need a google email address.

### **Grade Book for Professors**

Take advantage of Google Spreadsheets as a useful strategy for organizing and tracking student grades, either through the paid or free version.

### **GradeProof**

This writing tool provides services for both students and teachers. For students, GradeProof uses artificial intelligence to provide instant feedback and editing to help improve writing. It also looks for grammatical issues, as well as wording and phrase structure, and even provides word counts. Students can import work through email attachments or cloud storage services. The service also checks written work for instances of plagiarism, helping students (and teachers) ensure that all work is original and/or properly cited.

**iTalk Recorder** Don't worry, Apple fans! There's still a way to keep an audio record of classroom discussions using the iPhone!

**Khan academy** -Khan Academy's mission is to provide a world-class education for anyone, anywhere. They teach students important lessons about history, science, physics, finance, biology, geometry, algebra, grammar, etc. If you are looking for a good explainer video for in your class? Or just looking for ideas? Then this is definitely the place for you. You can let your students install the smartphone app so you can recommend video's they have to watch. Students can also take a look sporadically. They can learn from the videos everything they want, anytime they want.

### **Notability**

Gingerlabs.com -The Notability iPad app allows users to create notes that integrate handwriting, typing, drawings, audio, and pictures, all into one comprehensive note. Of course, students can use it to take notes, but it's also a great way to review documents later on. Students with learning and attention differences can benefit from some of Notability's flexibility, including the audio-recording features to capture discussions in class, which frees up students to focus on what's happening around them, rather than writing furiously and missing details. But, Notability is not just a tool for students. Teachers can use it to create lesson plan notes, lectures and assignments, and other classroom materials. It can be used to create review sheets before exams, and for groups to work on projects collaboratively. The app can even be used to annotate PDF documents, such as student exams and assignments, as well as forms. Notability is great for use for all subjects, as well as planning and productivity.

**Oxford Dictionaries**-Every classroom needs a good dictionary or two. For TED-Ed community member Nuria Carballal, Oxford Dictionary works well. Meanwhile, TED-Ed community member Chie Sipin Bjarenas recommends [Dictionary.com](http://Dictionary.com). "It's a quick way to answer 'what does [insert unfamiliar word] mean?'" she says.

**Percent Calculator** Get grades done harder, better, faster, and stronger using this quick and easy calculator just for figuring out percentages.

**Smart Dot** It's an iDevice-based laser pointer that doubles as a remote control for PowerPoint and Keynote presentations — well worth it for slide-loving educators!

### **Super Duper Data Tracker**

Monitor students' progress with the tap of a finger. This app allows you to enter students' names and their academic and behavioral goals. During each session with the student, you can add data and notes about progress. *iOS and Android. \$1.99.*

### **TeacherKit**

TeacherKit (formerly known as TeacherPal) is a personal organizer designed for the classroom. Create class lists, take attendance, enter grades, manage student data, make seating charts, monitor behavior, and more. *iOS. Free.*

### **Too Noisy Pro**

Looking for a way to teach your students exactly what an "inside voice" is? Set the app to the maximum acceptable noise level for your classroom. When it's exceeded, the app will respond with an alarm. *iOS. \$1.99.*

**Voice Recorder** Perfect for Android users wanting to make permanent records of lectures for students who can't make it to class for whatever reason.

## **Lesson Planning (6)**

### **Common Core ConceptBANK**

This app not only lets you navigate the K–5 Common Core standards in ELA and math, it also features sample questions for the standards. It seems intuitive to pair it with ScootPad, an app from the same developer that facilitates individual student practice in reading and math. *iOS and Android. Free.*

### **Common Core Standards**

ELA and math Common Core State Standards are organized by grade level. "All of the standards are at your fingertips on this easy-to-use app with search capabilities," says Troy, Michigan, teacher Genia Connell. *iOS and Android. Free*

### **Common Core Standards App Series**

The general Common Core app can be a useful tool for students, parents, and teachers to easily access all the Common Core State Standards in one place. The Common Core app explains the core standards, and lets users search the standards by subject, grade level, and subject category. Teachers who are working from the Common Core curriculums can greatly benefit from the Mastery Tracker, which contains standards for every state. The versatile functionality of this app allows teachers to assess their students using a wide range of resources, and use real-time mastery status to visual student performance. This mastery is demonstrated with a simple traffic light approach, using red, yellow, and green to show the level of status. Curriculum maps allow teachers to mix and match standard sets, create their own custom standards, and drag and drop the standards into any desired sequence. The state and common core standards can easily be viewed by teachers to help them remain focused on teaching and assessing student progress. The reports allow teachers to assess student performance and focus on which students are struggling to master concepts and understand the teachings.

### **edX**

The edX app pulls together lessons from some of the best universities in the world. It was founded by Harvard University and MIT in 2012 as an online learning service and Massive Open Online Courses, or MOOC, provider. The service provides high-quality lessons to students from across the globe. edX offers lessons in science, English, electronics, engineering, marketing, psychology and more.

## Scholastic Classroom Ideas to Go!

Search by subject and grade through more than 1,200 lesson ideas from Instructor magazine. Save your favorites in your personal library. *iOS*. \$0.99.

## Socrative

Socrative is a clicker-response system similar to those used with interactive whiteboards. One app is downloaded on students' tablets and another on the teacher's. Students respond to multiple-choice, short-answer, and quiz-game questions; results are displayed as bar graphs and can be exported as reports. *iOS and Android*. Free.

# 35 of the Best Apps for Kids in Preschool

## 1. Fuzzy Numbers: Pre-K Number Foundation

Fuzzy Numbers: Pre-K Number Foundation uses scientific research to support early childhood learning theories. This unique app combines math and fairy tales to make learning math fun and easy.

## 2. Team Umizoomi Math: Zoom into Numbers

Based off the popular Nick Jr. show this app helps young children (ages 3-5) count, identify numbers, compare numbers, add, and subtract.

## 3. Monkey Math School Sunshine

Monkey Math School Sunshine is a favorite app for children because it is bright, colorful, and engaging. It uses nine different learning activities to teach basic preschool math concepts.

## 4. Montessori Numbers

Montessori Numbers is designed to help children learn math concepts using concrete examples, like the Montessori method. This app helps children learn to count to a thousand.

## 5. Moose Math by Duck Duck Moose

Moose Math is an app designed to keep children engaged and learning with the help of cute animals. Preschoolers can learn counting, addition, subtraction, and sorting through the app.

## 6. Team Umizoomi Math: Zoom into Numbers

Based off the popular Nick Jr. show, this app helps young children (ages 3-5) count, identify numbers, compare numbers, add, and subtract.

## 7. Drive About: Number Neighborhood

Drive About: Number Neighborhood is a Parent's Choice Award winning app. The entertaining games teach number recognition and counting.

## 8. Motion Math: Hungry Guppy

Motion Math: Hungry Guppy has a simple approach to teaching kids the basics. Your child will work to count the bubbles and then feed the bubbles to the hungry guppy.

## 9. iTooch Elementary School App

Boasting the largest database of educational exercises of its kind in the app store, this app is for grades 3-5. It's a comprehensive learning app, so it doesn't focus solely on math. There are grade-specific lessons ranging from

Math to Language Arts. The lessons meet Common Core State Standards and include easy explanations. With more than [4,000,000 users](#), teachers and parents must have this fun and educational app.

10. [\*\*Quick Math – \\$1.99\*\*](#)

Designed for grades 3-6, this app aims to improve users' general arithmetic skills. This app lets students practice math at their own level, featuring handwriting recognition software, the ability to create multiple personalized user profiles, and individualized feedback. \*For children 3-7 years old, check out [Quick Math Jr.](#)

11. [\*\*Elmo Loves 123s\*\*](#)

Everyone's favorite furry red guy and his friend Abby teach preschoolers how to count with songs, videos, puzzles, coloring pages, and number games.

Kids can also trace numbers to unlock fun surprises, and the 123s tracker allows you to follow each child's progress through the app.

12. [\*\*Leo's Pad Enrichment Program\*\*](#)

The award-winning app Leo's Pad was designed by Stanford researchers and an Emmy Award-winning creative director. A young Leonardo DaVinci and his pals lead kids through interactive adventures that teach over 25 early learning skills. Leo's Pad covers numbers, letters, and skills like practicing and sharing.

It also adapts to each child's skill level, allowing you to differentiate instruction.

13. [\*\*Lingu Pinguin\*\*](#)

The Lingu Pinguin app is designed for preschoolers. It combines images and sounds to make learning a new language fun and easy.

14. [\*\*Little Pim\*\*](#)

These language learning apps are made for children. With over twelve languages to choose, the Little Pim apps are based on the popular Little Pim language learning DVD series.

15. [\*\*Hip Hop Hen: Preschool Phonics\*\*](#)

Another fun app bundle. Hip Hop Hen: Preschool Phonics contains three apps that are geared towards Preschoolers. These apps introduce basic letter sounds and words. With three different apps, there are plenty of games to keep kids entertained. There are also fun songs to help kids memorize letters and words.

16. [\*\*Oz Phonics\*\*](#)

Oz Phonics is a bundle of apps that starts with the most basic letter sounds and helps students work their way up to learning to read. Games like word searches and letter to sound matching help kids master the basic of phonics. Each app also has printable worksheets for offline practice.

17. [\*\*Duck Duck Moose Reading\*\*](#)

Duck Duck Moose apps are educational, engaging, and fun. This app will work to keep children three to seven entertained while learning phonics and reading skills with zoo animal activities.

18. [\*\*iWriteWords\*\*](#)

IWriteWords is an award-winning preschool app that lives up to its name. It teaches your children handwriting skills using a fun, playful crab.

19. [\*\*Reading Raven\*\*](#)

Reading Raven is a customizable, phonics-based app for teaching early literacy skills. It begins with recognizing letters and moves through the standard literacy skills progression finishing with reading comprehension. It is designed for children three to seven years old.

20. **[Peekaboo Barn](#)**

[This simple app](#) introduces children to animal names and sounds using the game peek-a-boo. Parents can begin playing games like peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake with their baby between the ages of six and nine months, as their child will start to [play with and mimic sounds](#). Parents can use this app with their baby to begin his/her development and when the child reaches the toddler stage, he/she can use the app with supervision.

21. **[Learn to Talk](#)**

Appropriate for young toddlers just learning to speak or children with language delays, [this app](#) is easy-to-use and not overly stimulating. It includes a vocabulary of commonly used words and phrases each accompanied by illustrations. It's currently supported in both French and English, thus it can also be used to learn a second language.

22. **[Baby Sign & Learn](#)**

[Research has shown](#) that teaching babies sign language accelerates the development of verbal communication, while also improving emotional and cognitive development. Speech therapists recommend [this app](#) which teaches children five and under to sign in the signed language of your choice.

23. **[Word Wagon](#)**

Another Duck Duck Moose app, Word Wagon, is a great app for introducing early literacy skills such as letters, phonics, and spelling. It encourages learning through several fun activities. It also rewards children with stickers for each word learned.

24. **[Endless Alphabet](#)**

With this app, preschoolers learn the alphabet, along with vocabulary words like “gargantuan” and “hilarious.” Adorable monsters teach the definitions of over 100 words and guide children through fun, interactive puzzle games.

25. **[ABC Alphabet Phonics](#)**

Geared toward toddlers, preschoolers, and those just learning to talk, this app is quite basic, yet effective. Through sound, sight, and touch, children can learn the alphabet and a few other optional subjects. [Users have praised the personalization](#) options and the fact that the level of difficulty adjusts with the user.

26. **[Alphabet Sounds Word Study](#)** - This app is also ideal for young children just starting to learn phonics. It has four different modes for students to practice sorting letters, finding the right letter, spelling, and writing. Alphabet Sounds Word Study will get Pre-K and Kindergarten students familiar with common words and how to spell them.

27. **[AlphaTots](#)** - Fun action words are associated with each letter of the alphabet, so kids can “build” robots, “dig” for treasure, and even “zap” alien spaceships. The app also pronounces each letter, and there are additional features like puzzles and sing-along alphabet songs.

28. **[ABC Alphabet Phonics](#)** -This is a beginner app that teaches little ones the alphabet, letter sounds, phonics, and first words. It will keep your children entertained with fun songs and animations.

29. **[Interactive Alphabet](#)** -This flash card based game can be automated for beginners or controlled by your toddler. [Interactive Alphabet](#) allows your child to choose alphabet songs or flashcards. The app reads the

flashcard text along with the individual letter. Each card has the capability for children to play and interact with the letters. This game is available for iPhone, iPod Touch, and Ipad. It is not compatible with Android or Windows. The cost is \$3.99.

30. [Intro to Letters, By Montessorium](#) - This app offers three modes of play and covers letter recognition, pronunciation, upper and lower case printing, and phonograms. [Intro to Letters](#) allows your child to record and playback letter or sound recitation. Additionally, the app has tracing and audio options. This application is available for iPhone, Ipad and iPod Touch. This game isn't available for Windows or Android users. The cost is \$4.99.

31. [Starfall ABC's](#) - This colorful interactive app presents letters to your child in various ways. [Starfall ABC's](#) shows letters out loud and on screen, as well as within words and sentences. The educational game is versatile with added mazes and spelling challenges. Downloads are available for iPhone, Ipad, iPod Touch, Android and Kindle Fire. This is a free application.

32. [AlphaTots Alphabet](#) - This incredibly interactive app is our #1 pick. [AlphaTots Alphabet](#) boasts 26 preschool friendly puzzles and mini games, a sing-a-long alphabet song, upper and lowercase letters, and an interactive alphabet which helps your kids learn to recite their ABCs. This game is cute, fun, safe and appropriate for all ages. It is also compatible with iPhone, Ipad or Android. The cost is \$2.99.

33. [Alphabet Fun](#) - This colorful game utilizes animals to illustrate the concepts of letters and numbers. Children trace letters, numbers, and words on the screen with their fingers. [Alphabet Fun](#) also reads the letters aloud to your toddler. Although, it doesn't read out full words. The biggest drawback for this fun game is that it's only compatible with Ipad. The cost is \$2.99.

34. [Metamorphabet](#) - This visually appealing app involves your child in each letter. As your child navigates [Metamorphabet's](#) letters they transform into related animals, objects and actions. As your child sees each new metamorphosis, they also see and hear the written word. Navigation can be a little tricky for new players, but the game keeps kids engaged well. This game is available for iPhone, iPod Touch and Ipad, but still, leaves Android and Windows users out. The cost is \$3.99.

35. [iTouchiLearn Life Skills: Morning Routines for Preschool](#)

Preschool children find this app engaging and helpful because it includes illustrations, songs, and clear instructions for their morning tasks. For example, it teaches children how to brush their teeth correctly.

## 39 of the Best Apps for Kids in the K-2 Grades

By [Matthew Lynch](#)

At last count, there were over 80,000 educational apps available to teachers. There are apps for everything: literacy, STEM, productivity, audiovisual, etc. There are apps which improve accessibility for students with different learning challenges, i.e. text to voice, voice to text, etc.

While many of these may be a dream come true for educators, the dizzying array of choices is also a nightmare. Teachers just don't have time to filter through thousands of apps to find the one that works best for the needs of their students. To help, we started to create curated lists of the best apps in a variety of education related categories. In this installment, we will present the best apps for kids in the second grade.

1. [News-O-Matic](#)

A great app for teachers who want to include current events in their elementary classroom. News-O-Matic delivers 5 kid-friendly news stories to readers each day. Plus, teachers can opt-in to receive an email containing Common Core aligned lesson plans that go along with the stories.

2. [Story Chaser](#)

This app masterfully gamifies speed-reading for comprehension, perfect for students that need a little extra challenge. Different parts of the story become game levels, in which students can earn "Chaser Coins" as they go. Besides testing for speed, the app challenges them on decoding words that have multiple meanings.

3. [Tikatok](#)

Want to get students really excited about reading? Nurture their writing skills and this will give them a true appreciation for the written word. Tikatok gives them the opportunity to write and digitally publish their own books. They can illustrate them with their own pictures or choose from a selection of digital backgrounds.

4. [Inform 7](#)

Inform 7 makes coding fun by focusing on helping you create text-adventure games. This is one of the oldest types of games available and the first that actually had a real story to follow (unlike Pong and Pac-Man which were largely about beating your opponent). The focus is entirely on the text, which means that the code is much easier to understand.

5. [Happy Kids Timer](#)

If you are a fan of sticker reward charts, then you will love this app. It works as a time management tool and teaches children responsibility by taking children step-by-step through their morning routines. It celebrates achievements with a digital sticker chart.

6. [Smiling Mind](#)

This app helps students learn to meditate. Smiling Mind contains guided meditations that increase in length as students practice more. Before and after each session, users track their emotions. There are also offline activities that can be used in or out of the classroom.

7. [Mood Meter](#)

A simple app that helps students recognize their emotions. Mood Meter allows users to choose how they're feeling, then helps guide them to figure out why they feel that way. It also helps students learn to control their mood and feel more positive overall.

## 8. [ModMath](#)

ModMath is a free app for the iPad, targeted at helping students with dyslexia and dysgraphia do math. It was created by parents of a child with dysgraphia, and remains focused on providing a clear tool to solve math problems without ever picking up a pencil.

## 9. [English Listening and Speaking](#)

Helps ELL students to learn English by giving them engaging stories and transcripts, along with exciting games. It can also provide students with the correct pronunciation of the text that they are reading.

## 10. [Brainscape Pro](#)

This app allows you to search 1 million topics to get quizzed on using flashcards. Some even use the app to learn languages from scratch. You can also create your own flashcards and share content with others. [@brainscape](#)

## 11. [Zcooly Ranch](#)

Developed by teachers for their own students, Zcooly Ranch present adorable animal characters while helping kids learn to tell time. Children help to care for the ranch animals, and they can earn points to help decorate the pens. Kids will learn digital and analog time formats, and they'll also become familiar with abstract phrases like "half past." The Educational App Store gives this software a 5/5 rating, and you can buy it for Android or the iPhone/iPad for \$1.99.

## 12. [Vocabulary.com](#)

If you are looking for a game-like approach to building your students' vocabulary, then you should consider this app. It is a game where the student must earn points by answering vocabulary questions to move up levels. It also makes creating relevant vocabulary lessons easy for teachers with its learning activity feature.

## 13. [Sushi Monster Math](#)

This game gives a fun new twist to your math lessons. Children must solve math problems and feed the correct answer to the monster. Answers are represented on a plate of sushi rolls. The game combines elements of strategy and quick mental math.

## 14. [Reading Rainbow Skybrary Family](#)

Children pilot hot air balloons through seven magical islands, each home to hundreds of colorful books. *Reading Rainbow* host LeVar Burton serves as a tour guide and appears in educational Video Field Trips. The app even tailors book suggestions to each child's age and interests.

## 15. [Todo Telling Time](#)

The app teaches time and also tells the days and months. Learners will see the changes in the sky as the sun and the moon move across it. The app will also help you teach your child about developing a schedule and sticking to it, and the content is aligned to the Common Core Standards. It's an excellent choice for kids with learning differences. The app is the "Best Design Winner at the 2013 Launch Education Conference," and the company

has been recognized by Mashable as a pioneering startup for kids. Produced by Enuma, Inc, the app costs \$4.99 and is available for iPhone and iPad.

#### 16. [Quick Clocks](#)

When reinforcement of learning concepts is vital, try Quick Clocks. This app is clean and straightforward, and its beauty lies in its simplicity. Learners work through three skills levels as they try to beat their previous scores when telling time in 12-hour and 24-hour formats, as well as digital and analog time.

#### 17. [Math Vs Zombies](#)

Reminiscent of the popular app, Plants vs Zombies, Math vs Zombies allows students to fight virtual zombies from taking over the world by using simple math skills. This is a fun game that also helps students master elementary math skills.

#### 18. [Addition and Multiplication Math Bubbles](#)

Based on the Chinese Multiplication Table, this game has two modes. In the timed mode, students try to get as many points as possible in the limited time. In survival mode, if students make a certain number of mistakes, the game is over.

#### 19. [Kids Vocab – MindSnacks](#)

Instead of boring flashcards for memorizing vocabulary, the MindSnacks Kids Vocab app uses nine interactive games to build vocabulary skills and improve reading comprehension. The app is geared for children 7 to 12 years old.

#### 20. [Ginger Page](#)

Dyslexic students often have trouble with spelling. Software with autocorrect or spellcheck sometimes can't figure out what a dyslexic student is trying to spell. Ginger Page is a more sophisticated word processor that can help dyslexic students write flawlessly.

#### 21. [vBooks PDF Voice Reader](#)

Many text-to-speech apps are unable to convert PDF documents into speech. vBooks PDF Voice Reader can, and it can also change the font to one designed for dyslexic readers.

#### 22. [Tinybop Collection 4](#)

From apps that let you explore the human body, to apps that let you understand the workings of machines, this bundle of ten apps by Tinybop is an amazing asset if you want to teach the little ones about the world we live in. [@tinybop](#)

#### 23. [Touch.Learn](#)

[This is a tool](#) for educators and parents of children with Autism and other special needs. Sets of flashcards, accompanied by lessons, can be edited and altered by speech therapists, educators, and parents according to the

child's level. This app has been [certified by TeachersWithApps](#), rated an [A+ in educational value](#), and is the [recipient of several awards](#) and mentions as the top app for special needs.

24. [\*\*Math Open Reference\*\*](#)

Bare bones collection of math simulations.

25. [\*\*My Math Flash Cards\*\*](#)

A fun and exciting way for students to learn basic math skills.

26. [\*\*Everyday Mathematics Equivalent Fractions\*\*](#)

Teaches students' fractions using the card game Solitaires.

27. [\*\*Doodle Math: Numbers\*\*](#)

Doodle Math: Numbers is a fantastic app for teaching beginning math concepts through engaging activities. Kids are taught to identify and write numbers. As they learn, they move on to sequencing and basic addition.

28. [\*\*Mathemagics – Metal Math Tricks\*\*](#)

This math app helps students learn tips and tricks to doing math more easily in their head.

29. [\*\*Quick Math Pack\*\*](#)

Quick Math is a multi-app bundle, including individual apps focusing on mental arithmetic, times tables, fractions, and telling time.

30. [\*\*Made with Code\*\*](#)

Motivational videos and engaging projects that inspire girls to code.

31. [\*\*Math Vs Zombies\*\*](#) – Reminiscent of the popular app, Plants vs Zombies, Math vs Zombies allows students to fight virtual zombies from taking over the world by using simple math.

32. [\*\*Appinventor.org\*\*](#)

Great website that gives teachers the resources that they need to teach coding. The end result is student end up making their own apps.

33. [\*\*Box Island\*\*](#)

Allows kids to journey travel through a gorgeous 3D world as he or she learns to problem solve through coding.

34. [\*\*Bookshare\*\*](#)

Exceptional digital library that allows students with visual disabilities to operate it.

35. [Goalbook Toolkit](#)

Make personal benchmarks for your students with this expensive kit of tools and strategies.

36. [Little Bird Tales](#)

Create simple digital storybooks empowering, even for younger kids.

37. [Prodigy Game](#)

This app is free for teachers and aligns with math curriculum for grades 1-8.

38. [Math Evolve](#)

Students learn, practice, and improve skills in multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction. This app was known originally as Sakura time and can be purchased for \$1.99

39. [Chance Lab](#)

Created for elementary grades, Chance Lab helps students explore probability.

## 37 of the Best Apps for Kids in Grades 3-5

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While many of these may be a dream come true for educators, the dizzying array of choices is also a nightmare. Teachers just don't have time to filter through thousands of apps to find the one that works best for the needs of their students. To help, we started to create curated lists of the best apps in a variety of education related categories. In this installment, we will present the best apps for kids in fourth grade.

1. [Tales 2 Go.](#)

This audiobook app allows you to stream 6000 different stories. You can search based on age, interest or genre. You can also bookmark and add favorites. Subscriptions can be purchased by schools, parents or educators.

2. [Kids Reading Comprehension Level 1 Passages For iPad](#)

Short non-fiction readings hold students' attention and are followed up by a brief comprehension assessment to measure progress. Readings are relevant and entertaining, and provide children appropriate praise and rewards for finishing.

3. [Codecademy](#)

Codecademy is more than just a tool. With over 25 million people signed up from around the world, this site knows how to draw in students and keep them engaged in what they are learning. With over 20 different sessions, there is something for every level of coding experience. If you have never coded before, the site makes it interesting to learn the basics of things like website creation and working with CSS. If you are a more seasoned programmer, the site covers some of the most complex languages, such as Ruby and Python.

4. [PhET Interactive Simulations](#)

Large repository of science and math simulations.

5. [National Geographic Kids](#)

Amazing photos of wildlife and indigenous people.

6. [Journey North](#)

A historic site that helps teachers create engaging lessons for their students.

7. [National Geographic Education](#)

Discover the world with this site's multimedia features.

8. [Zooniverse](#)

Research-based content that helps teachers make their content relatable.

9. [Flocabulary](#)

Flocabulary is a fun vocabulary program for grades K-12. It's especially useful in elementary classrooms. The hip-hop style songs help kids learn new vocabulary words, and the app has plenty of games and activities to reinforce what students learn. There are also printable activities and worksheets for teachers.

10. [Photomath](#)

There was a time when you needed to hire a private tutor to walk you through the math problems you couldn't solve yourself.

11. [Motion Math: Cupcake](#)

If you're an elementary school teacher struggling with interesting your students in math, this could be the app you've been waiting for.

12. [Monster Math](#)

Monster Math is an excellent tool to add to your classroom and has scored way above the average ratings for a math app.

13. [Think Through Math](#)

Adaptive learning comes with live support from licensed educators.

14. [Get the Math](#)

Learn how to solve real-life algebra problems with diverse crew, delightful videos.

15. [Prodigy Math Game](#)

This app is accompanied by a platform which its creators claim is [“The most engaging math platform in the world”](#). The app covers 1200+ essential math skills for grades 1-8. The app places children in the correct grade according to diagnostic testing so that kids can learn at their own pace. Real time reports are sent so you can monitor the progress of the user.

16. [Mathmateer](#)

With the slogan [“Math can be fun!”](#), Mathmateer has kids building rockets while solving math problems. [According to teacher, Amanda Bindel](#), “The math content is rich, covering all four operations, money, time, even and odd numbers, and shapes on six levels, from beginner to genius”. This arcade-style game is suggested for grades 3-6.

17. [Writing Challenge App](#)

The app provides a prompt to get student writing started...then, every minute, the app supplies another prompt to add new ideas, words, characters, sentences, places or actions to the plot.

18. [Writing Prompts](#)

This app generates fiction, and nonfiction writing prompts, helping students master the skill of the short write.

19. [Story Builder](#)

Story Builder is an app from the same company that produces Sentence Builder.

20. [Kodable](#)

Kids learn to code by rescuing adorable fuzzy aliens when they crash-land on a planet.

21. [GoldieBlox: Adventures in Coding – The Rocket Cupcake Co](#)

Is coding app where the objective is to make everyone fill up on yummy cupcakes.

22. [Lightbot](#)

A great introduction to coding for kids any age.

23. [Dyslexia Toolbox](#)

Marketed as being “by dyslexic people, for dyslexic people”, this toolbox features a whole host of assistive technology features for K-12 students with dyslexia. Type pads, word prediction, digital overlays and text readers are all included, along with

24. [English LaunchPad](#)

Allows teachers to monitor their students’ progress, and assess individual or group progress. Students can practice exercises and receive live help if they need it.

25. [Imag-n-o-tron](#)

Stories jump off the page with *Imag-n-o-tron*. Downloadable content makes this app suitable for any age. Students improve their reading while engaging with complimentary images making the VR world an educational space

26. [EON Experience](#)

This collection of VR lessons encapsulates everything from physics to history. Students or teachers can create their VR lessons from preloaded content.

27. [Model Me Going Places](#)

This visual tools assists students in learning to navigate their school and community.

28. [Positive Penguins](#)

This app helps students build resilience.

29. [Minecraft: Education Edition](#)

You’re likely familiar with Minecraft, the virtual sandbox that allows users to craft entire worlds block by block. The Education Edition boasts additional features like portfolios, the ability to link to outside resources using “tour guides,” and the capacity for an entire classroom to collaborate on building a world together.

30. [iPlanLessons](#)

As education becomes increasingly data-driven, record keeping is more necessary than ever. But as a busy homeschooling parent, it can be hard to find the time to do it well. This app effortlessly tracks your children’s progress using Key Performance Indicators and even connects you to relevant lesson plans and classes.

31. [iLiveMath Animals of Africa](#)

Are you struggling to come up with an engaging and meaningful way to teach kids how to solve word problems? With this app, they can apply their problem-solving skills to the world of African animals in a way that’s relevant and engaging, with real-world connections.

32. [Rosetta Stone Kids Lingo Word Builder](#)

Disney fans will love the Rosetta Stone Kids Lingo because it includes animation from “It’s a Small World” to teach Spanish and English. A combination of games and speaking activities make this app a hit!

33. [ASL Kids – Sign Language App](#)

This free app is a terrific way to teach children American Sign Language. Your kids will be able to watch other child experts use sign language. Plus, there are several games and lessons.

34. [Brush of Truth](#)

The award-winning Brush of Truth app is a hit with children 8 to 12 years of age. In this app, readers must make choices that influence the story’s outcome. This interactive choose-your-own-story will excite reluctant readers.

35. [Splingo’s Language Universe](#)

[Designed by Speech and Language Therapists/Pathologists](#), this interactive game [meets the Speaking and Listening](#) area of the Common Core Standards. The app has a customizable option that allows users to improve their weaknesses in listening to directions and recognizing words and phrases. It’s great for kids of all ages and all language levels, and those with developmental delays or special needs.

36. [Learning Ally](#)

Learning Ally is a great resource for audiobooks. This app has hundreds of books for kids and teens available with a monthly subscription. Users can follow along and adjust the size or type of text to make it easier for dyslexic students.

37. [Lingual.ly](#): Students learn a new language simply by playing games. It comes with a dictionary that you can access on the go.

## 35 of the Best Apps for Kids Grades 6-8

By [Matthew Lynch](#)

At last count, there were over 80,000 educational apps available to teachers. There are apps for everything: literacy, STEM, productivity, audiovisual, etc. There are apps which improve accessibility for students with different learning challenges, i.e. text to voice, voice to text, etc.

While many of these may be a dream come true for educators, the dizzying array of choices is also a nightmare. Teachers just don’t have time to filter through thousands of apps to find the one that works best for the needs of

their students. To help, we started to create curated lists of the best apps in a variety of education related categories. In this installment, we will present the best apps for kids in the seventh grade.

1. [Twiddla](#)

Twiddla calls itself a “meeting platform” where students can collaboratively mark-up graphics, photos, webpages, and uploaded documents. Students may opt to brainstorm on a white canvas or create mind maps as well.

2. [TodaysMeet](#)

This very easy-to-use backchannel tool allows teachers to create a chatroom for the class. Students can ask questions, respond to questions, have collaborative discussions, or provide feedback on your lesson. The site also has a polling feature.

3. [Learn to Code with El Chavo](#)

This tool, created to teach kids to code, has incredible graphics to visually engage kids as they learn.

4. [Codesters](#)

Text-based coding makes for an edifying learning experience.

5. [CodeMonkey](#)

Students learn how to code, by learning to solve problems. Use this tool and watch your students critical thinking skills go through the roof.

6. [Flocabulary: Language Arts](#)

Adds hip hop music to students’ language arts learning.

7. [Grammar Girl: Quick and Dirty Tips](#)

Provides students with engaging grammar tips and tutorials.

8. [Purdue Online Writing Lab](#)

Provides resources to students who are interested in sharpening their writing skills. Won’t necessarily help reluctant writers.

9. [DIY](#)

A website that lets users design cool new stuff.

10. [KidsThinkDesign](#)

Provides projects that inspire kid’s curiosity and creativity.

11. [Instructables](#)

Provides users with an extensive collection of DIY projects.

12. [Lawrence Hall of Science: 24/7 Science](#)

First-class site for science games and investigations.

13. [Discover Science](#)

Infuse your lessons with materials from the CAS.

14. [Smithsonian Science Education Center](#)

A teacher-g geared site that provides teachers with the steps for research-based science instruction.

15. [Mystery Science](#)

Well thought out science curriculum and experiments.

16. [Character Playbook](#)

For middle and high school students, this app helps navigate the world of relationships. Comic book-style stories guide students through common social situations. Modules with quizzes help students assess their progress.

17. [Calm](#)

An app that works for students from Kindergarten all the way through college. Calm has features like breathing exercises, meditations, and modes to help with falling asleep.

18. [CueThink](#)

Promotes deep math learning and employs a social approach to critical thinking and problem-solving.

19. [Desmos](#)

Sophisticated graphing calculator with math scenarios and simulations that encourage students to collaborate.

20. [Mathalicious](#)

Helps students to master advanced math concepts while having fun.

21. [Duolingo](#)

This language learning website and its supplemental apps are popular with educators because it is a gamified educational tool. Students can compete with one another and track their progress.

22. [Grammaropolis](#)

This website makes mastering grammar (such as the parts of speech) fun. The website includes books, videos, quizzes, and games. It also has apps students may download.

23. [Gus on the Go](#)

The app, Gus on the Go, helps children learn thirty languages by using familiar classic stories. Plus, it includes games and interactive lessons.

24. [Kids Learn Mandarin](#)

By encouraging children to play games and earn stickers, this app teaches kids how to speak, write, and read over 200 words in Mandarin. The app also includes lessons and music videos to make the lessons even more fun.

25. [Brush of Truth](#)

The award-winning Brush of Truth app is a hit with children 8 to 12 years of age. In this app, readers must make choices that influence the story's outcome. This interactive choose-your-own-story will excite reluctant readers.

26. [Problem Based Learning Experience](#)

This unique app features a collection of starter questions to help students and teachers begin problem based learning activities. Each starter question also contains links to other resources to help students work to solve the problem in a real-world way.

27. [Prepmagic](#)

Provides students with science simulations that promote learning.

28. [Mystery Science](#)

Well thought out science curriculum and experiments.

29. [HiNative](#)

This app is a free Q&A for learners with specific questions in mind. Like HelloTalk, HiNative connects users with native speakers to receive feedback on written work, ask contextual questions, receive instant and accurate translations and, with the audio feature, check pronunciation.

30. [Rosetta Stone Travel App](#)

When you think language-learning edtech, Rosetta Stone is probably the first brand that comes to mind. We've all seen the commercials and walked past pricey bundles of Rosetta Stone courses. But did you know they've got an app perfect for learners-on-the-go? This pocket-sized approach with a built-in guide book has everything

that makes the original version successful; industry-leading speech technology, images, customizable settings, and opportunities for repetition, repetition, repetition.

31. [Autism Xpress](#)

A simple app designed to help young people with autism express their emotions, Autism Xpress uses a feeling finder and games in a fun and easy-to-use package.

32. [Apollo 11 VR](#)

Be part of one of the most significant space expeditions. Though VR technology, students can have a front seat in this documentary style app. This award winning app is pushing the possibilities of VR as an educational tool

33. [Earth AR](#)

See the globe from new unseen angles. Motion detection and zooming capabilities will make geography more interactive.

34. [Everyday Racism](#)

With this app, students walk inside of the shoes of a Muslim woman, an Aboriginal man, or an Indian student for a week. They experience some of the racism that these groups encounter every day in Australia. The spot on depictions of racist incidents is uncanny. Even if you are working with American students, they will quickly see the parallels that exist between the manifestations of racism in both countries.

35. [GradeProof](#)

Ever struggled with over using certain words when writing? Or maybe messing up the grammar? GradeProof will go through your essay and come up with suggestions how to fix the problems. It will also check for plagiarism so if you accidentally wrote something a little too much like that Wikipedia article you used as reference it will help you fix it. [@gradeproof](#)

## 39 Best Free Apps for Students in Grades 9-12

Thirty-nine of the best for zero dollars.

### [Shana Ramin](#)

Everyone loves a good app. They have the power to connect us with others, streamline our daily tasks, and support us in more productive lives. Finding apps for students is easy. Finding quality, free apps for students that actually benefit learning can be a bit trickier.

So I enlisted my seventh and eighth graders (thanks, you all!) to help come up with a list. From powerful note-taking abilities to stunning media creation, here are the best free apps for students in middle or high school.

*Note: All apps listed below are free to download, though some offer in-app purchases or paid versions.*

# Free apps for students who need a productivity boost:

## 1. Google Drive ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))

Google Drive provides students with 15 GB of free, cloud-based file storage. No more worrying about losing a flash drive or emailing files back and forth. With Google Drive, students have easy access to all their files, regardless of where they are or what device they're using. The app also includes share-sheet support, which means students can send images and videos from their phone's camera roll directly to Google Drive. Files in Google Drive also have offline capabilities, so access isn't always restricted to areas with an Internet connection. This makes Google Drive a smart choice for students who want to take their mobile productivity to the next level.

## 2. Google Docs ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))

Google Docs lets students create, edit, and share documents on the go. An essential word processing app, Google Docs helps students work more efficiently. Students can begin a document on one device and finish it on another, without ever needing to save it or attach it to an email.

For collaborative documents, students can type on separate devices yet contribute to the same document in real time. Easy access to revision history means students can track changes made by each collaborator, and revert to earlier versions of the Doc if necessary. This makes Google Docs the ideal app for group projects, essay writing, peer editing, and more. Bonus: [check out these awesome ideas](#) for using Google docs in the classroom.

## 3. Google Slides ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))

With Google Slides, students can create, edit, and share slideshow presentations on the go. With the mobile app, students have the additional benefit of taking in-app photos and videos, or adding media directly from their phone's camera roll. Like Google Docs, students can work together in real-time and track each user's contribution with the revision history.

## 4. Google Sheets ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))

Google Sheets allows students to create, edit, and share spreadsheets. It is also the destination app for Google Form responses. Students can use Google Forms to collect information via polls, surveys, and event sign-ups. The form responses are automatically sent to a Google Sheet for easy reference and analysis at any time.

## 5. Google Classroom ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))

This is a must-have app for students whose teachers use the blended learning platform, Google Classroom. Downloading the app allows students to have instant access to their classroom stream, along with viewing and editing access to all their classroom assignments. They'll also receive notifications when new announcements and assignments are posted, which makes it easy to stay informed on all classroom happenings.

## 6. Google Calendar ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))

Google Calendar is a simple way for students to keep track of events, goals, and reminders all in one place. In addition to adding events directly from Gmail, students can set personal goals such as exercise, meditate, or

study for finals. Google Calendar will schedule these goals according to the desired frequency and offer reminders when it's time to get moving. Google Calendar also works with iCloud and Apple Health.

### **7. Google Keep ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))**

Google Keep is a visually appealing note-taking app. Students can use Google Keep to store things like websites, images, quotes, and lists on color-coded “sticky” notes. Like Google Drive, the Google Keep app also includes share-sheet support. This means that students can do handy things like save research notes and website sources right from the Share icon in their phone's web browser.

### **8. Evernote ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))**

Evernote is a comprehensive productivity app that allows students to take notes in a variety of formats, including text, sketches, photo, audio, and video. Notes automatically sync across all devices and are easily shared with others for real-time collaboration. Students can use their phone's camera to scan notes and drawings on paper. Evernote also includes share-sheet support, so students can send attachments to Evernote without ever opening the app.

### **9. Notes**

Notes is an iOS app that comes pre-loaded on all Apple devices. With this native app, students can jot down notes and create checklists with a few quick taps. Students can easily organize notes by sorting them into folders. The browse feature makes finding previously written notes a breeze. With share-sheet support, students can easily add attachments such as photos, maps, links, and documents right from the Share icon on their mobile device. Notes also syncs with iCloud, so students have real-time access to their notes across all devices.

### **10. CamScanner ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))**

This clever app turns mobile devices into portable scanners with a simple camera shot. CamScanner automatically enhances documents for clarity and sharpness. Students can export the images as a JPEG or multi-page PDF to save or share with others.

### **11. myHomework Student Planner ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))**

This attractive, digital planner app allows students to manage homework, assignments, and upcoming tests. Students can add classes and track their upcoming work in an easy-to-read monthly, weekly, or daily calendar view. Notification reminders help ensure no crucial deadline is missed.

## **Free apps for students who need help studying:**

### **12. Quizlet ([iOS](#) / [Android](#)) and StudyBlue ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))**

With these digital flashcard apps, students can create and share their own flashcards or choose from thousands of stacks created by others. Students can also monitor their progress and gain confidence in their learning. Mobile flashcards contain all the benefits of traditional flashcards, but in a more convenient and easy-to-access format.

### 13. Khan Academy ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))

Khan Academy is a massive database of free videos and exercises on every subject imaginable. With the added benefits of an attractive interface, easy navigation, and offline capabilities, this powerful app is essential for any student looking to sharpen and expand their content-area knowledge. It also made our list of teachers' [favorite math websites](#).

### 14. Forest ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))

Forest offers a creative approach to helping students focus on school work. To avoid the inevitable distraction of a nearby phone, students can use this clever app to set a certain amount of time during which they need to study. During that time, a digital plant grows. If students exit the app before the time is up, the plant will wither and die. While the free version is fully functional, the stakes are a little higher in the paid version: students can grow an entire forest and collect virtual coins, which can be used towards planting an actual tree somewhere in the world.

## Free apps for students to learn language arts:

### 15. Mad Libs ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))

Mad Libs is a classic word game that helps students practice the basic parts of speech. This fun, educational app includes a colorful interface with 21 free stories. Unlike many free apps, Mad Libs doesn't allow third party advertising, which makes it ideal to use in an educational setting.

### 16. GoodReads ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))

GoodReads offers personalized book recommendations and access to a vast community of like-minded readers. Students can keep a want-to-read list, read and write book reviews, and share book recommendations with others. We shared more ideas on using GoodReads in the classroom [here](#).

### 17. Word of the Day ([iOS](#))

This app offers daily word-of-the-day notifications. Students can browse the database of previous words and save their favorites for easy reference later. The app also includes options for sharing via text or social media.

### 18. Words with Friends ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))

Words with Friends is one of the most popular word games out there. Like Scrabble, Words with Friends is a board game where players take turns putting letters together to form words. Students can challenge friends and family, or match themselves with other players according to skill level. In addition to providing hours of entertainment, strategy word games such as this one can also provide a variety of cognitive benefits.

## Free apps for students to learn math:

### 19. Photo Math Camera Calculator ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))

This clever app allows students to scan troublesome math problems with their camera to get colorful, step-by-step solving instructions. Though this app may have the potential for misuse, it's helpful for students who want to check their work or get clarification on a particular step. It can also help parents brush up on their math skills to better assist their students at home.

## **20. Free Graphing Calculator ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))**

This essential calculator app features scientific and graphing calculator capabilities. It also includes a unit converter, formula reference list, term glossary, and much more.

## **Free apps for students to learn science:**

### **21. NASA ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))**

With the NASA app, students have access to a variety of gorgeous video and image galleries, as well as updated scientific news and mission information. Students can explore NASA's latest articles and tweets, watch live NASA TV, and even save their favorite images to use as wallpaper on their own devices.

### **22. EarthViewer ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))**

EarthViewer is a neat app that enables students to view and explore Earth's history over the last 4.5 billion years. This research-based app includes interactive features and in-depth maps on concepts like continental reconstruction, sea level, and global temperature. Stunning animations, clickable details, and reference lists make this the ideal app for students who want to learn more about Earth's dynamic history.

## **Free apps for students to learn social studies:**

### **23. iCivics: Argument Wars ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))**

Argument Wars is an iCivics game where students are tasked with using their persuasive abilities to argue real Supreme Court cases. Students must evaluate logic and reasoning while learning about the Constitution and landmark Supreme Court cases. In addition to Argument Wars, iCivics is responsible for several other educational apps, including Executive Command ([iOS](#) / [Android](#)) and Your Bill of Rights ([iOS](#) / [Android](#)). With absolutely no advertising, these free apps are perfectly designed for educational use.

### **24. Google Earth ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))**

Google Earth is an interactive app that enables students to explore the globe with a few swipes of their finger. With simple navigation and clickable details, this app allows students to easily view and learn more about any area on Earth.

## **Free apps for students to practice a world language:**

### **25. DuoLingo ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))**

DuoLingo, named Apple’s Best iPhone App of 2013, is one of the most popular language-learning apps. DuoLingo’s lessons are great for brushing up on vocabulary and listening skills, while the recording exercises help students develop stronger speaking skills. DuoLingo currently supports 23 languages, including Spanish, French, German, Italian, English, and Portuguese.

## **26. Google Translate ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))**

Google Translate is a popular app with a variety of text, microphone, and camera translation features. In addition to basic text translations, students can use this powerful app to translate bilingual conversations in real-time. Students can also instantly translate text in images with the built-in camera. With the addition of offline capabilities, this app is a smart choice for students with future travel plans.

## **Free apps for students to learn coding:**

### **27. Swift Playgrounds ([iOS](#))**

Swift Playgrounds is an iPad-only app that teaches students the programming language Swift, which is used by Apple to create apps. This colorful, user-friendly app includes clear instructions, a glossary of common coding terms, and a variety of fun and engaging levels to play. Swift Playgrounds contains no third-party advertising, and all levels are completely free.

## **Free apps for students to build brain power:**

### **28. Stop, Breathe & Think ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))**

Stop, Breathe & Think is a mindfulness app that can help students de-stress with a series of short meditation guides. The app provides information to help students get started regardless of experience level. It also includes a mood and meditation tracker so students can easily follow their progress. Stop, Breathe & Think integrates with Apple’s native Health app, which means students can sync their meditation data with other health information like exercise and nutrition.

### **29. Elevate ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))**

Elevate, named Apple’s Best iPhone App of 2014, is a brain-training app designed to help improve attention, memory, and more. Students can train with Elevate using a variety of personalized games that target skills in writing, listening, speaking, reading, and math.

### **30. TED ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))**

The TED app provides access to the entire library of official TED Talks. Students can browse featured talks, view curated playlists, or discover talks on virtually any topic of interest. Whether students are looking for inspiration or for a good laugh, there’s a TED Talk for just about any occasion. With the motto “Ideas Worth Spreading,” TED is an essential app for all age levels.

### **31. QuizUp ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))**

This addictive, multi-player trivia game allows students to challenge friends while learning fun facts on a variety of topics.

## **Free apps for students to create media:**

### **32. PicCollage Kids ([iOS](#))**

This user-friendly app allows students to create a variety of fun images and collages. With no account required and hundreds of free, school-appropriate backgrounds and stickers, this app is ideal for student and classroom use.

### **33. Adobe Spark Post ([iOS](#))**

Adobe Spark Post enables students to create attractive web graphics with a combination of text, images, and animation. Students can save their posts as basic images, live photos, or videos. Adobe Spark projects are automatically saved and synced across all devices for a seamless, worry-free workflow. Use of Adobe Spark apps requires a free account, though students can log in using their Google accounts or regular email.

### **34. Adobe Spark Page ([iOS](#))**

Adobe Spark Page puts a stunning twist on basic presentations, newsletters, invitations, and more. It incorporates dynamic page elements, which creates an interesting parallax type effect when scrolling through the page. All Adobe Spark Page projects are mobile responsive, which means they look amazing on any size screen. Students can use Adobe Spark Page to help their presentations stand out from the group.

### **35. Adobe Spark Video ([iOS](#))**

Adobe Spark Video is an easy-to-use video editor that creates beautiful videos and presentations. Students can record their own voice and choose from a variety of themes, music, and layouts.

### **36. iMovie ([iOS](#))**

iMovie is Apple's video editing software, which enables students to create and edit professional-looking videos using a variety of templates, graphics, text, and audio. iMovie content is automatically synced across all devices. Students can save their work in up to 1080p HD to their camera roll or publish directly to YouTube, Facebook, or Vimeo.

### **37. Adobe Photoshop Sketch ([iOS](#) / [Android](#))**

With this powerful app, students can create realistic artwork with a variety of built-in drawing and painting tools. The app also includes layer support, which means students can add multiple drawing or image layers for more advanced artistic creations. Use of this app requires registering for a free Creative Cloud membership, which includes 2GB of free file storage.

### **38. Clips ([iOS](#))**

Designed by Apple, Clips makes it easy for students to create videos with animated text, graphics, captions, and music. With simple controls and a variety of neat features, this app is perfect for students who want to tell a quick story, make a video tutorial, or create unique videos on the go.

## **And, a free app that’s just for fun:**

### **39. Snow Day Calculator Pro ([iOS](#))**

Using a machine-learning algorithm, this fun app calculates the chances of having a snow day.

## **Language Arts**

### **[DuoLingo](#)**

Duolingo.com -Apps like DuoLingo are helping students excel in learning a second language. DuoLingo provides an interactive, game-like experience. Users can earn points and level up, learning as they go. This isn't just an app for the students to use on the side, either. Some schools have even integrated DuoLingo into classroom assignments and as part summer studies to help students prepare for the year to come. It's always helpful to brush up on your skills during the summer months.

### **[Grammar Jammers](#)**

If you thought grammar couldn't be fun, you've never tried Grammar Jammers. It's a series of three apps designed for different levels—Primary, Elementary, and Middle—that teach grammar skills in a game format. *iOS. \$2.99 (primary edition is free).*

### **[Handwriting Without Tears: Wet-Dry-Try](#)**

Students use a virtual slate chalkboard to practice forming numbers and capital letters using the Wet-Dry-Try approach. Students first trace the letter with a wet sponge, then with a dry paper towel, and finally with a piece of chalk. *iOS and Android. \$4.99.*

### **[Storia](#)**

This Scholastic e-reader app is designed just for kids. Books are embedded with questions, learning activities, and pop-up dictionary definitions. The app download comes with five free books; additional books can be purchased and added to a student's bookshelf. *iOS and Android. Free.*

### **[Super Duper StoryMaker](#)**

Primary students can craft their own stories using text, images, photos, sounds, and drawings. Stories can be saved, printed out, and e-mailed to friends. *iOS. \$4.99.*

### **[Super Why!](#)**

Jessica Millberg, school library media specialist at Central Early Childhood Center in Deptford, New Jersey, loves to use Super Why! with kindergartners and first graders. "It's easy to navigate for little hands and it addresses rhyming words, letter identification, spelling, word building, and sentence completion," she says. *iOS and Android. \$2.99.*

### **[Tales2Go](#)**

Tales2Go is an audiobook app that provides access to more than 2,000 titles. "Its wide selection of audiobooks, both classic and popular, has made listening to reading fun and engaging," says Dawn French, library and media

specialist at Edinbrook Elementary School in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. *iOS. \$99.99 annual subscription for 5 licenses.*

### Toontastic

Toontastic provides kids with a structured story arc and 40 “playsets” of characters and story worlds so that they can create their own animated stories. They can use drawing tools, and incorporate images, photos, music, and voice narration. *iOS. Free; \$12.99 for access to all playsets.*

## **Math**

### CardDroid Math

A similar flash-card math app exists just for Android. CardDroid allows you to customize colorful flash cards to meet specific students’ needs. The app features timed tests and interactive rewards for users. *Android. \$0.99.*

### Educreations

Educreations is an all-purpose app that records both writing and voice. Jennie Magiera, a digital learning coordinator in Chicago, has her students write and explain their thinking as they solve math problems. “Screen-casting metacognition is invaluable,” she says. *iOS. Free.*

### Everyday Mathematics Equivalent Fractions

This isn’t your ordinary game of solitaire. Students must draw from the card pile and match equivalent fractions. They earn points for each match they make. *iOS and Android. \$1.99.*

### Motion Math: Hungry Guppy

The youngest students can practice counting and simple addition by feeding numbers to the hungry guppy. A similar version of the app, Hungry Fish, is aimed at elementary-age students. *iOS. \$3.99.*

### My Math Flash Cards

There’s no need for old-fashioned flash cards anymore. With My Math, students can practice addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. “This app is great for students who are mastering basic facts or for students who need additional practice,” says Erin Muschla-Berry, a seventh-grade math teacher at Monroe Township Middle School in New Jersey. *iOS and Android. Free.*

### Sushi Monster

Reinforce addition and multiplication skills with Sushi Monster. “This app is a favorite with my math students who love a challenge because the difficulty level really escalates as they make their way through the levels,” says Troy, Michigan, teacher Genia Connell. *iOS. Free.*

### Socratic - Homework Answers & Math Solver

Socratic.org -Imagine you could take a picture of your assignment and get help right away. Turns out, you can. Socratic uses the photo of a homework question to provide an explanation of the problem, including videos and step-by-step instructions. Using artificial intelligence to source information from the website, pulling from top educational sites like Khan Academy and Crash course. It is perfect for all subjects, including math, science history, English and more. Even better? This app is free.

## **Science**

### **BrainPOP: Featured Movie**

Access BrainPOP’s huge library of videos, spanning all content areas. Science videos address topics in earth, life, and physical sciences, including weather, space, and physics.

*iOS and Android. Free app; \$6.99 for full-access subscription.*

### **Frog Dissection**

Aimed at a middle school audience, this app offers an alternative to physical dissection. Students learn about dissection tools, as well as a frog’s anatomy and organs. A quiz follows at the end. *iOS. \$3.99.*

### **Happy Little Farmer**

Designed for preschool-age learners, the app covers the entire life cycle of plants. Kids can grow their own fruits and vegetables, play games, and collect stickers along the way. *iOS. \$1.99.*

### **NASA App**

Students in grades 4 and up can use this app for research and projects. Access news, photos, videos, mission information, and more from the country’s leading authority on space. *iOS and Android. Free.*

### **Nearpod**

Nearpod allows teachers to deliver presentations to students’ tablets and collect responses. Karen Darroch, a fourth-grade teacher at Green Valley Elementary School in Hoover, Alabama, who uses Nearpod across the curriculum, says it’s particularly handy for creating interactive presentations in the sciences. *iOS. Free.*

### **Smithsonian’s National Zoo**

Take a virtual field trip to the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. Watch live-streaming videos of its residents and read about each species, from aardvark to zebra. *iOS and Android. \$1.99.*

## **Social Studies**

### **Ansel and Clair: Paul Revere’s Ride**

Join Paul Revere on his midnight ride. This interactive learning experience teaches students about the people and key events that sparked the American Revolution. *iOS. \$4.99.*

### **Disney American Presidents**

Learn about every president, from George Washington to Barack Obama, by flipping through the Unofficial Oval Office Scrapbook. Embedded in its pages are profiles, videos, and little-known facts about each commander-in-chief. *iOS. \$3.99.*

### **Geography Drive USA**

“Buckle up,” says third-grade teacher Kristin Ram, of P.S. 128 Audubon in New York City. “This app makes geography fun—students drive customized cars across the country, learning about landmarks, historical events, and other state features. The game also has built-in incentives—students love filling up their learning tanks!” *iOS. \$4.99.*

### **Learn the World**

No passport required to take this global trek. Learn the World tests students’ knowledge of countries, capitals, and continents. By completing multiple-choice quizzes, they can earn flags of countries from around the globe. *iOS. \$0.99.*

### **MyCongress**

Search by zip code to access the names and profiles of your representatives in Congress. The app links to videos, news, social media sites, and contact information for each representative. *iOS. Free.*

## Music & Art

### [Canva](#)

Canva.com -An app created to assist with graphic design, Canva's flexible format can be used for a variety of tasks. Students and teachers can use this app to design easy yet professional looking graphics to go with a classroom blog, student reports and projects, as well as lesson plans and assignments. Canva offers preset designs and graphics to choose from and inspire creativity, or a blank slate for students to start from scratch with their own designs. It works for both the experienced designer and those who are just learning the basics. Teachers can upload pre-approved graphics, set guidelines for fonts, and all the images live online for editing and revision when necessary. Plus, the designs can be shared and downloaded in a variety of formats. Even better, the magic resize option lets users adapt one design to multiple sizes with just one click.

### [Drawing Carl](#)

Young students can make their own masterpieces using pencils, markers, paint, stamps, patterns, and a variety of other tools. They'll love Mirror Mode and mixing colors. *iOS. \$0.99.*

### [GarageBand](#)

Andrew Goldberg, a music teacher at P.S. 117 in New York City, has formed an iPad band for his students with special needs. "They can play melodies, chords, and rhythms on a realistic touch-screen keyboard, guitar, or drum set," he says. "Because I teach in a special needs environment, the adaptability that GarageBand for iPad offers is essential." *iOS. \$4.99*

### [Let's Create! Pottery](#)

Have your students create ceramics—without the mess! Put your clay on the virtual pottery wheel and start to craft. You can even glaze and fire your pottery to perfection. *iOS. \$4.99.*

### [MoMA Art Lab](#)

Young Picassos in grades 2 and up can investigate how modern artists use line, shape, and color, with examples from the Museum of Modern Art's collection. Then they can use the app's drawing tools to create, save, and share their own works of modern art. *iOS. \$2.99.*

### [Music Tutor](#)

Have students practice pitch identification and sight-reading skills with one-, five-, or ten-minute quizzes. The app lets you work on the treble clef, bass clef, or both. *iOS and Android. Free.*

### [Virtuoso Piano](#)

Teach basic keyboard skills using this app. Virtuoso Piano has several handy features, including duet mode. Additional instruments can be purchased within the app for \$0.99 each. *iOS. Free.*

### [Photomath](#)

Every student encounters at some point in his learning career a problem with math. Sometimes solutions are penned down without even knowing where it came from. After reviewing, the steps to the answers are just one big mystery. And sometimes it is really hard for a teacher to keep explaining the same thing a hundred times. It would be so nice to have a helping hand. Let your students download photomath. This app lets them scan a certain calculation and the app takes you to the answer, explaining every step thoroughly. Students can learn the calculation on their own pace when a teacher goes too fast or can't go over every exercise. When I first tried it, I was completely blown away (read "in love") with this app. I would have gotten better grades with a virtual teacher right by my side when doing my homework. Of course you can't completely rely on this app, although it

is really good. You have to make it clear to your students that this app is supposed to be a help, and not something that does their homework for them. They won't be able to use the app during tests or exams.

## Special Needs

### [AutismXpress](#)

“The iPad isn't a magic bullet, but for some of our students, it really is,” says Leslie Schecht, a director of technology with New York City public schools. She recommends apps like AutismXpress, which helps students match expressions with emotions. *iOS and Android*. \$1.99.

### [Choiceworks](#)

“Choiceworks is valuable in creating visual supports for students who have a variety of needs,” says Bill Thompson, a school psychologist with the Orange County Department of Education in California. “The program allows teachers and parents to construct visual schedules using their own pictures or ones from its library.” *iOS*. \$4.99.

### [Dragon Dictation](#)

This voice recognition app is most useful for students with fine motor difficulties or physical impairments that make writing or typing challenging. Simply speak into the microphone and the words appear on screen. *iOS*. *Free*.

### [Signed Stories](#)

This animated storytelling app tells stories in American Sign Language. With each book read, students can add words to their video dictionary. The app and first story are free; additional stories can be purchased separately for \$5 to \$7 apiece. *iOS*. *Free*.

### [Sono Flex](#)

Sono Flex is for students who are nonverbal or have communication difficulties. It allows them to express themselves with the touch of a finger. Students can tap words and pictures from the app's glossary, and the tablet will say their selections out loud. *iOS and Android*. \$99.99.

### [Super Duper: WH Question Cards Pro](#)

Speech and language pathologist Jenna Rayburn of Columbus, Ohio, uses her iPad with students on a daily basis. Apps like WH Questions Cards “eliminate the need to carry sets of articulation cards or language worksheets from classroom to classroom,” she says. *iOS*. \$11.99.

## Create and Innovate

### Use Smartphones to Create

- Write with apps such as [My Writing Spot](#) and [Evernote](#).
- Set up a portable writing station by connecting a keyboard to smartphone via Bluetooth.
- Use [dictionary](#) and [thesaurus](#) apps.
- Use [Dragon Dictation](#) for struggling writers. Interested? Click [here](#).
- Write on-the-go during a field trip or active lesson on campus with [Tripline](#).
- Create “How-To” guides using apps such as [SnapGuide](#).
- Write to Blog Post via the [Blogger](#) app.

- Peruse playlists while double-checking the lyrics on the internet to create a soundtrack that applies to current studies.
- Create [Twitter parodies](#) of certain characters, historical figures, chemical equations, geometry theorems, and animals of study in Biology class.
- Create a mini-presentation, skit, or formal response to a prompt and e-mail the video to teacher's [Posterous](#) blog spot.

### [Adobe Voice/Spark](#)

Adobe Spark is an intuitive app that lets teachers and students create animated videos in minutes. Choose a video lay out, import videos and images, add text and choose a music track. That's it! In this video creator/editor, students can easily add and trim video clips to make their videos stand in the classroom. They can choose an image from a library that has over 25,000 beautiful iconic images or add their own photos to highlight what they have to say. Spark automatically adds cinematic motion to their story so they don't have to be a pro in video editing. This app can also students with their presentations and speaking exercises. You can use Adobe Spark as well to teach a short lesson. Ideal for microlearning! Just insert your slides and add short videos (explainer or instruction videos from Explain Everything!) and you're done!

### [Aurasma](#)

With Aurasma you create augmented reality. The idea is quite simple: you make an image (a photo, graphics, text document, ...) scannable. You associate an action to the image. An action can be: the appearance of a movie, an extra explanation, referring to a website, etc. This way, you enrich simple paper posters, images, QR-codes, and many more. Use the Aurasma app on a tablet or smartphone (iOS or Android). You can also do it through Aurasma Studio on a computer. Let your students install the app so they can go look for augmented reality messages hidden behind pictures or objects.

### [Kahoot](#)

Kahoot is probably the most well known example of a live edtech game. Kahoot engages students. Moreover, it's competitive. That's what students like. They want to win. Make a fun multiple choice quiz. When your students are ready to play, they enter the unique quiz code on their smartphone app. Students have to tick off the right answer as quickly as possible. They don't really need to type the answers. They just have to tap the engaging colors on their screen. For every right answer they score points. If the answer is correct and the student was very fast to answer, the student gets more points than a slow student. If you want your students to collaborate more, Kahoot's team mode is the answer. One device, more students. Are they able to collaborate and still answer really quickly AND correctly?

### [Lucidchart](#)

Lucidchart allows students (and teachers) to create plenty of different diagrams like flow charts, mind maps, wire frames and much more. Why is it so good? Well, students can work together on these charts without sending new versions by email over and over again. Collaborate with others and work on diagrams together in real time. After finishing their project, they can export it as a PDF file or PNG file. Then they just have to save it on their phone or share it via mail, social media or with other apps. Lucidchart provides free educational licenses that include all premium features to schools and universities, but you have to pay for it on a smartphone.

### [Nearpod](#)

With Nearpod you can create interactive presentations. Add slide by slide or choose a special Sway template you can adjust. All those slides make an amazing interactive presentation. Especially if you add activities like

quizzes, open ended questions, polls, draw questions and others. What about taking your students on a field trip within your presentation? Just add a slide with a virtual reality experience from Nearpod's library.

### [Padlet](#)

Padlet can be used by students and by teachers. With padlet you can create an online board that you can share with every student or teacher you want. Just give them the link. Padlet allows you to insert ideas anonymously or with your name. It's easy to use and very handy. Whoever has the board open on his smartphone, can see what's on it and what everyone is writing. Students can use Padlet when collaborating on a teamwork and the teacher can use it to do some live brainstorming on a topic in class. Students just have to take their phone and start adding brainstorm ideas. They can see all the ideas gathered on their teacher board on the big screen. Collect your ideas when you find something interesting on the internet that you can use in your lessons. Simply save it to a Padlet board. Students can do the same.

### [Quizizz](#)

Create an account and you're off and running. As the teacher, create your quiz, make it public (where anyone can search and use it) or make it private. Create your quiz adding pictures and time limits for each question. Quizizz works great with math classes as there is a symbol dash board. Teacher's also have the option to play the quiz live or share it for homework. When the quiz is done, go to your dashboard and click on a particular report for that quiz to view specific results.

### [Quizlet](#)

Quizlet is a quiz tool that focusses on terms and definitions. As a teacher, you add a class and make a quiz. Students can download the app and search for a quiz made by their teacher. Students can even make their own study sets. They just have to open their teacher's study set and choose what game they want to play. They can take a test, opt for the learn mode, learn by flashcards or match terms with their definitions. Quizlet *Live* lets your students work together in order to find the right word or definition to the description. It's made for practicing terms and definitions. There's something tricky though: you can't see what descriptions your teammates have. If someone on your team makes a mistake, you have to start over again. Teams battle each other in order to be the first team to reach the finish line.

## **Communicate, Coordinate, Organization, and Productivity**

### **Use Smartphones to Coordinate/Curate**

- Relax and write with apps like [Nature Music](#) or [iZen Garden](#).
- Listen to [music](#) as source of inspiration for creative projects.
- Have students access their peers' blogs by sharing a [Symbaloo](#) webmix on teacher page. Check out this [one](#).
- Point students in the right direction for [creative tech tools](#).
- Save time and paper by accessing documents on teacher's [website](#).
- Share spreadsheets of notes with [Google Drive](#).
- Get to know your students by having them complete a Google [Form](#).
- Research key sites to bolster students' projects.
- Manage students' knowledge of current lessons by having them take a quiz directly from their smartphones via [Socrative](#).
- Allow students to check their grades via on-line [gradebook](#) or [learning platform](#).
- Have students question peers outside class and send their recorded opinions to [Voicethread](#) or [Posterous](#).

- Use apps like Reminders and [PocketLife Calendar](#) to plan study times and project times. The [Weather Channel app](#) is handy for avoiding weather conflicts during outside project time.
- Use the calculator app to calculate scores during gamified learning structures.
- Use the stopwatch and timer apps to manage class time.

**[Documents To Go](#)** View and create PDFs and Microsoft Excel, Powerpoint, and Word documents from almost anywhere.

**[Dropbox](#)** This simple, popular tool focuses mostly on transferring documents back and forth between different computers and smartphones alike.

### **[Edmodo](#)**

Edmodo is a social media platform that facilitates communication between teachers and students. Users can hold discussions, submit assignments, and post messages to one another. Planning and grading features are also available. *iOS and Android. Free*

### **[Evernote](#)**

Evernote is an all-utility tool for note-taking. Cathy Wolinsky, instructional technology teacher at Yarmouth Elementary School in Maine, has fourth graders create their own Evernote accounts on their tablets. “They are working on combining photos, writing, and voice notes to create multimedia projects,” she says. *iOS and Android. Free.*

**[Free Wi-Fi Finder](#)** When getting work done outside the home or office — because teachers need a change of atmosphere, too! — it helps to know what nearby locales host free wireless service.

### **[Google Drive](#)**

“This app gives students the ability to create collaborative documents and presentations,” says Alice Barr, a technology integrator at Yarmouth High School in Maine. “Drive also serves as a backup for documents and allows for storing photos and files.” Free accounts come with 5GB of storage. *iOS and Android. Free.*

**[iAnnotate](#)** iAnnotate helps iPad-owning teachers edit, organizes, read, and annotate (of course) PDF files, making it an ideal tool for grading student projects.

**[Instapaper](#)** Save pages from useful websites and blogs you encounter for offline viewing and reading with this much-ballyhooed timesaver.

**[RE.minder](#)** Educators with time management issues might want to consider downloading RE.minder, with a to-do list feature and handy alerts when tasks are almost due.

### **[Remind101](#)**

Send text-message reminders about homework, tests, and special events to students and parents—all without students seeing your phone number, and vice versa. *iOS and Android. Free.*

### **[Skype](#)**

The possibilities for integrating Skype into the classroom are endless. Connect with parents for virtual conferences or correspond with e-pen pals across the globe. A number of authors and experts offer class visits via Skype. *iOS and Android. Free.*

## **Teacher Aide Pro Lite**

Turn an Android phone into a personal assistant with an app providing pretty much every specific organizational requirement educators need to succeed.

**TeacherKit** iPhone-toting teachers can also enjoy all the perks of a PDA app with TeacherKit, which provides a way to stay on top of grades, attendance, and any other factors they need to know.

## **Professional Development and Training**

**Bump** “Bumping” two enabled phones together automatically exchanges contact information — great for staying in touch with parents as well as other teachers and administrators from education events.

**Edmodo** Connect with other teachers as well as students using Edmodo, which acts as a social media resource limited exclusively to the schooling sector.

**Facebook** Because so many education professionals, schools, and organizations take advantage of the 300-pound gorilla of social media, it definitely warrants a download for plugged-in pros seeking some career development.

**Flashcards\*** Create, share, and download flashcards on every subject imaginable — awesome for classroom use or staying current on changes within education and areas of inquiry.

**Goodreads** You don’t have to teach English to appreciate good reads, and this social network and personal library inventory system stands as solid proof! Sign up and use it to receive custom recommendations of books to nurture the classroom as well as personal and professional growth.

**iBlueSky (mindmapping)** Get great ideas out there and in the open with this productivity app that means to push every user’s inherent potential forward.

**LinkedIn** Access the ridiculously popular professional social media site and network with others in the education industry for ideas, inspirations, and information about how to improve your career.

**Pulse News** Stay on top of the current news of the day by sticking with this Android app, which involves easy access to any online reads the user chooses. Pulse News makes for one of the best ways to remain relevant in the general education sector as well as any academic subjects taught.

**The Leadership Challenge Mobile Tool** Wiley Publishers provide a \$4.99 resource packed with information, inspiration, and a series of articles and activities meant to bolster general leadership acumen.

**Twitter** The ubiquitous microblog’s app covers pretty much every smartphone platform available, and offers a stellar way to share resources with other professionals as well as students and their parents.

## **Teaching students how to present, create and code**

**Animoto**—Students can easily create and share their own beautiful videos with Animoto. “I’m a huge fan of this simple yet powerful digital storytelling tool for iPad and the web,” writes **TED-Ed Innovative Educator** Jennifer L. Scheffer in an **this ed tech roundup**. “The app allows students to select a theme, music, images or videos, add

captions and/or two lines of text, and within minutes a slick video is created. The finished product can be shared via social media, uploaded to YouTube, or embedded in a student's e-portfolio. For a great introduction to Animoto, with a built-in lesson in digital citizenship, have students create an 'About Me' or 'Year in Review' Animoto."

### **[codeSpark Academy with the Foos](#)**

Designed to inspire younger students to engage in coding, codeSpark introduces students to computer science through a fun interface. Previously known as The Foos, codeSpark Academy with the Foos is the result of play testing, parent feedback and extensive research with leading Universities. There are daily activities for students, and teachers can access a dashboard to track student success.

**[Draw and Tell](#)**-This app can increase [creative confidence](#) in kids of all ages. Just draw something, tell a story about it and share your creation. For TED-Ed community member Ginnie Harvin Pitler, this app is a classroom favorite. "I'm an elementary teacher and believe in creation apps over consumption apps," she says.

**[Duolingo](#)**-If the [benefits of a bilingual brain](#) motivate your students, try this app. "Duolingo revolutionized the way people learn languages," says TED-Ed community member Dhruv G. Menon.

**[Haikudeck](#)**-Students can create beautiful presentations with this app. "It's great for pairing short poems and images," says TED-Ed community member Jessica Dawn Kaiser.

**[Hopscotch](#)**-Students can learn computer science fundamentals — via game design — using this app. For more ways to teach core coding concepts, check out [Scratch](#).

**[iMovie](#)**-This popular app is another teacher-recommended choice for student video creation. "My students enjoy using iMovie for group projects," says TED-Ed community member Chris Gilley Callaway. Check out the [Apple apps for educators](#), too.

**[Instructables](#)**-From science experiments to merit badges, this app offers instructions for more than 100,000 DIY projects. Looking for a classroom maker project? You'll find it here. Did your students create something awesome? Encourage them to upload their instructions and share their ideas.

**[QR code Reader and Scanner](#)** -Every student needs a QR code scanner on his iPhone. I'm sure you, or one of your colleagues uses QR code once in a while. If not, you should definitely get started. It's easy and fun. Scanning thing is always fun. Even it's just for that one second. The QR code Reader and Scanner app is a QR code scanner app. Whoever has this app on his smartphone, can scan and create a QR code. That would be a nice activity too. Let your students make a quest through the school buildings with QR codes about a certain top. Fun guaranteed!

**[TED-Ed](#)** -More than 250,000 teachers use [TED education tools](#) to spark student curiosity and explore presentation literacy skills. "TED-Ed is an outstanding resource in my classroom," says TED-Ed Innovative Educator Jennifer Hesseltine. "I use the online platform to add engaging content to topics that we are studying. I have also given students the opportunities to help in the process of creating TED-Ed Lessons by choosing videos and creating questions to include."

**[Tinkercad](#)**-After students get inspired by the open-source wonderland at [Thingaverse](#), turn them loose to start designing their own 3D objects with this app.

# Collaborating on school projects

## Use Smartphones to Collaborate

- Have students peer-assess their classmates' essays through a [Google Form](#) embedded on teacher page, and allow them to view real-time constructive criticism. Afterwards, polish up the spreadsheet and share with students. Believe me, they will be interested. Click [here](#) to see how successful this strategy can be.
- Allow texting in class to peer-edit and offer constructive criticism for writing projects. Just imagine students sharing thesis statements and introductory paragraphs without ever saying a word. This is just one of the strategies we use to create a quiet and successful writing atmosphere in [Studio 113](#). Check it out [here](#).
- Make brainstorming visible via a projected image with [Polleverywhere.com](#) and [Wallwisher.com](#). Using these two sites really is too simple. Although Wallwisher requires an internet connection, students may use a cellphone for Polleverywhere.com.
- Create a shared list of notes by making a Google Form available. I usually [embed](#) Google Forms on my teacher page for easy access. Afterwards, I make the spreadsheet of notes [available](#) to all students.
- Have students post relative links of videos, websites, etc. for a unit of study. I like to think of this as the [Army of Talent](#) completing a task in a fraction of the time it would take one teacher hours to finish. This strategy is highly effective as it invites students to co-create their learning environment and unit. A Google Form would easily serve this purpose.
- Make thoughts visible by having students post videos and text or by having them phone in their answers to Voicethread. Check out our recent Voicethread [here](#).
- Engage readers in real-time as they work through the assigned reading by collaborating with their peers via a [Twitter hashtag](#), [Polleverywhere.com](#), [Todaysmeet.com](#), or [Wallwisher.com](#).
- Have students call in-class peers during an interactive learning structure. Click [here](#) to see a cool idea.

[Slack](#)-Whether you're collaborating with other teachers or assigning group project work to students, this app can make communication easier for teams in a variety of settings. "I've experimented quite a lot lately with Slack," says TED-Ed Innovative Educator Dylan Ferniany. "It has the benefits of a Facebook group, plus wonderful integration with Google Docs and Google Hangouts."

[Google Apps for Education](#)-If you see the acronym GAFE on any education blog, it probably refers to this suite of Google apps. Among teachers, Hangouts gets a thumbs up for video-based conversations. Here's one example of how that can work well in the classroom, from TED-Ed Innovative Educator Jimmy Juliano: "In an AP Environment class at my high school, students used Google Hangouts on Air to have climate change conversations with friends and family members. Harnessing the power of two-way video has really opened up new pathways to learning opportunities."

[Schooly](#)-This cloud-based platform is "similar to Facebook, only it includes the needed security features for school use," says TED-Ed community member Jessica Dawn Kaiser. "I use Schooly for a class page, so my students and I can post assignments, videos, completed work and links."

[Mindmeister](#)-This app makes it easy to map out the relationships between ideas. For complex group projects, it can also provide a way to quickly visualize and create a project outline, together.

[Wikispaces](#)-Sometimes what you really want is a wiki. For those moments, teachers recommend this app.

# Communicating with students (and their families)

## Use Smartphones to Communicate

- Use [FaceTime](#) on the iPhone to add outside audience members during class discussion or learning activity. This is perhaps one of the coolest things we have recently done in class.
- Allow students to read from their smartphones during SSR (Silent Sustained Reading) while sharing interesting articles via [Polleverywhere.com](#).
- Allow students to video or audio record your assignment instructions.
- View student [exemplary products](#) from school [YouTube channel](#).
- Augment lessons with excellent videos from [Ted.com](#) or [RSA](#).
- Use a Twitter hashtag to augment the in-class lesson or extend the conversation after class. Click [here](#) to read about a tri-state conversation about a Presidential debate.
- Establish a Twitter [class account](#) to share class assignments and reminders. If students do not want a Twitter account, make it easy. [Embed](#) the Twitter feed on your teacher page.
- Send students reminders in-class/after-class through [ClassParrot](#) and [Remind 101](#).
- Have a [silent discussion](#) via [Todaysmeet.com](#).
- Capture learning moments. Ever had a student raise a hand, make a connection, and say, “Have you seen the video that....?” Ask students to e-mail pertinent links during class and show the video in minutes.
- Have students assess the teacher through a Google Form.
- Use [Google Translate](#) to break down language barriers.
- Use [Instagram](#) or Twitter to advertise class projects.

[Remind](#)-This digital communication tool is in a league of its own, according to TED-Ed Innovative Educator Jennifer L. Scheffer. “The privacy (no personal phone numbers are required) and message scheduling features are top-notch. For a high school teacher, Remind is an essential digital tool, since most teens have cell phones with texting capabilities.” Read Jenn’s full review [here](#).

[Edublogs](#)-A WordPress blogging platform designed with teachers in mind. “I love my Edublog app for a.m. documentation and communication,” says TED-Ed community member Louise Sciulli MacKinnon. “It’s user friendly and makes uploading and sharing images simple.”

[ClassDojo](#)-This option provides multiple ways to engage students and their families. “I love it as a classroom management tool and motivator,” says TED-Ed community member Heidi Cooley, who built a reward system for her students based on points earned in class.

## Giving (and receiving) student feedback & Participate

### [Airserver](#)

Airserver is an application that helps you to mirror your screen to the computer. This way students can show everyone what they are doing, what solutions they have found and where they have found them. Airserver is installed on the classroom computer (not the iPhone) for Windows, Android or Mac. Install the application, let students swipe up from the bottom centre of their iPhone and choose for “AirPlay Mirroring”. Then they have to choose the classroom computer. This would be too easy if there weren’t some downsides to this application. So, here it is: sometimes it just doesn’t work. This is because the iPhone and the computer must be on the same

strong Wifi network. And that might be an issue for some schools. But when it works, it's just so handy. The best thing about this app is that multiple phones can be projected on just one computer. Then connect your computer to the projector so everyone can see the iPhone screens.

**BookWidgets** -BookWidgets is now also available on [smartphones](#). With BookWidgets, you can make interactive exercises for your students on tablets, computers and smartphones. As a teacher you can choose between more than 40 different exercises and games. Take a look at the [widget library](#). We give you the template, you add your lesson idea in just a few clicks. It's that easy! Students open the exercise with the app on their smartphone via a special shortcode or by scanning the QR code you show them. The biggest advantage of BookWidgets is that it's so diverse. Making your own quiz or worksheets? BookWidgets! Making your own games like crossword puzzles, memory, spot the difference, jigsaw puzzles, etc.? BookWidgets! Making automatically graded tests? BookWidgets!

**Edmodo**-For providing clear feedback, many teachers like this learning management system. "The app makes it possible to give students constructive feedback in a 1:1 manner," says TED-Ed Innovative Educator Jennifer Hesseltine. It's also easy for students to respond.

**Evernote Scannable** This great app allows you and your students to use your smartphone as a document scanner. It automatically detects documents or notes of any size and offers enhancement options. Great for students to quickly make copies and send it over to their teacher or other students. No need for a scanner at home. In just a few clicks the image is saved or on its way to another destination. This app is for iPhone only. For Android phones you can use [CamScanner](#).

**Google Forms**-Many teachers recommend this app for gathering feedback from students. "It's a great way to receive feedback from the whole class at the end of a semester," says TED-Ed Innovative Educator Sharon Hadar

**Moodle**-This open-source learning management platform "has a questionnaire option that I really like," says TED-Ed Innovative Educator Mitzi Stover. "I have students complete this anonymously to give me feedback on my online class."

### **Pear Deck**

Pear Deck is an awesome classroom tool where students can use their phone to participate in a variety of questions. Questions in Pear Deck question types include short or long answer, true/false, and multiple choice. Drawing answers in Pear Deck is also possible. Pear Deck also has a feature called "Takeaways" where the student can view the questions and their answer at the conclusion of the session. When combined with the Google Sheets add-on Flubaroo, teachers can use Pear Deck as a formal assessment tool.

### **Pearltrees**

With Pearltrees, your students get organized. It's a "page" on their smartphone where they can save collections like idea boards, photos, notes, files, web pages and more. It's easy for them to collect things they can't lose, or articles they might need later on in class. Interesting web pages they stumbled upon, ideas for in class or for homework, notes and lists, etc.

### **Poll Everywhere**

Poll Everywhere is a voting system, completely reinvented! As a teacher, you have to set up a question on the web interface or smartphone app. Students can see it on their PC, tablet or mobile phone. Questions can be polls, but also open ended questions like "give me a tip to improve my teaching". Students can respond by using

the web app, a text message via the Poll Everywhere smartphone app or even Twitter. You get instant audience feedback. Another fun feature is the ability to make nice charts of the answers. You can easily get started analyzing the results.

### **Popplet**

Popplet is perhaps the simplest tool to capture and organize ideas. With a few clicks on the screen, students can make “Popplets” (little squares) and add text and images. It’s easy to connect the Popplets, rearrange them, change their colour and even adjust their shape. Popplet is great for learning in the classroom and at home. Students use Popplet to think and learn visually. Students learn to generate new ideas by capturing facts, thoughts, and images. They learn to make simple mind maps in just a few steps.

### **Seesaw**

Seesaw lets your students hand in assignments with just a few clicks. It’s an app or website where students can work on their portfolio. They can join a class by entering a code via the smartphone app or website, or by scanning a QR code. Then they can choose between seven buttons. They can add a photo, video, make and record a drawing, upload a photo from their camera roll, add a note, a link or a file. It’s an easy and swift way to gather articles and important things for a course. Students don’t have to wait until they have a computer at their disposal. They can gather and add everything they need that relates to their teacher’s assignment or course portfolio. You can leave a comment and approve your student’s work.

### **Socrative**

Socrative is a live quiz tool and looks a lot like Kahoot. Just like in Kahoot, the students have to enter the quiz by entering a unique code in Socrative’s smartphone app. Then they can start the quiz. Here they can see the questions on their smartphone screen. That’s different than with Kahoot. After the quiz, you get the results of your students and can see what questions were hard and need some more explaining. There’s one great difference between Kahoot and Socrative though: Socrative is less competitive than Kahoot. You’ll see that in your student’s behavior. When you want to really energize and engage your student, you should use Kahoot. When you want your students to have fun while focussing on the lesson material, you should use Kahoot.

## **Reference**

**Algeo graphing calculator** Don’t fret, Android devotees! There’s a great graphing calculator application just for you ladies and gents as well!

**ASL Ultimate** Teachers with hearing-impaired students will greatly appreciate having this resource around for advice on what to say and how to say it in ASL.

**Dictionary.com – Dictionary & Thesaurus – Free** Like the title states, this app from Dictionary.com combines dictionary and thesaurus tools for quick vocabulary look-ups.

**Free Graphing Calculator** It’s a free graphing calculator. For the iPhone. If you haven’t figured that out by now, then probably you have to worry about more than which apps to download and further your teaching.

**Google Search** Google Search provides way more options than the web-based engine, and smartphone fans love taking advantage of how it sends returns based on photos and other multimedia input.

**How To Videos from Howcast.com** Learn how to do just about anything using crowdsourced videos, and even upload your own instructions to open up your classroom to the world.

[Wikipanion](#) Wikipanion streamlines the Wikipedia experience even more, allowing for bookmarking, archiving visit dates, multilingual searches, and other amazing additions completely gratis.

[Wikipedia](#) Read through and share articles from the world's largest encyclopedia on pretty much every smartphone platform out there.

[Wolfram Alpha](#) Turn a smartphone into the world's most powerful reference tool, with extensive information about literally every academic subject imaginable packed into one stunning application.

[World Factbook](#) Every year, the CIA releases its World Factbook to smartphone audiences and grants them access to detailed information about every nation on the planet.

## Welcome Distractions

[Cracked Reader Lite](#) Cracked is so ridiculously hilarious, people sometimes forget it actually features some insightful and educational content on the reg.

[Foursquare](#) Play fun, deal-seeking check-in games with friends or even draw some up for student scavenger hunts.

[Google Earth](#) Fun with or without playing with it on an educational level, Google Earth inspires awe and wonder at our planet's true complexities.

[Instagram](#) In between pictures of cats and food, try posting some from the classroom and share ideas about decor, or host a digital art show for students.

[Kindle](#) Available on every smartphone platform, Amazon's popular ebook reader make free and for-profit digital literature easy to access during free moments.

[Mixology Drink Recipes](#) Because those essays won't grade themselves.

[Musee du Louvre](#) Digitally walk the famous halls of the world-class art museum at the end of a stressful day and get lost in its glorious collections.

[NPR Podcasts](#) Sit back, relax, and get lost in "Planet Money," "All Songs Considered," "Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!" and dozens of other NPR shows both national and local.

[Showyou](#) Showyou curates the best of the best YouTube videos, and encourages others to share what they love most. The educational applications here ought to be readily apparent!

[TED](#) TED provides an edifying way to pass the time, with hundreds of videos featuring experts lecturing on every topic imaginable.

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**Pre-School (35)**  
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