



Hello 6th grade families,

My name is Susan Geores, and I am the 6/7 Educational Technologist at the Academy. I am delighted to be teaching your child's 6th Grade TechApps class this year. In the semester we have together, we will investigate many facets of technology, primarily emphasizing digital citizenship, productivity tools, research skills, beginning programming, and basic web design.



We will combine learning productivity tools (like Google Drive) with analyzing digital ethics and citizenship. These are hugely important topics to bring to the forefront of pre-teen minds. Some of the topics we will investigate include safety, security, privacy, our inter-connected social culture, respecting the creative work of others, and building a positive online identity. By seeking out some possible pitfalls and success strategies for our online age, my hope is that our students will be better prepared to be digital leaders in their future online lives.

In conjunction with our Community and Global Citizenship department, we will design and code personal web pages in support of community topics that matter personally. We'll use basic HTML and CSS (JavaScript will be optional). Seeing your plain text code generate a vibrant, purposeful website is quite a thrill!

Finally, near the end of the semester, we will move on to some serious fun – programming! We'll be using a program called Scratch, which you and your children may have used before. It's a terrific tool for learning the concepts of computational thinking, designed for that purpose by students at MIT. Scratch is a free, web-based program. You might want to visit the website (scratch.mit.edu) and play just for fun. Or let your children play. Or play together.

It's going to be an exciting year!

In terms of general technology at school, Albuquerque Academy uses the Canvas learning management system. Each teacher has a course in Canvas, which allows them to post assignments and support materials to help students stay organized and do homework independently after school hours. Your children will be expected to check both Canvas and their school email account daily for class information. However, Canvas is not a substitute for students taking careful assignment notes in their planners!

Students will be issued a Chromebook to use during the school day. Chromebooks are housed in family heads' classrooms or offices and charged there overnight. Each student is responsible for taking care of their assigned device, including remembering to return it to its charging station at the end of each day.

Students will need to bring earbuds/headphones this year, and some classes may require flash drives. Please label these tiny bits of tech so we can return any lost equipment to its rightful owner.

I am thrilled to be working with your children this year!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Susan Geores

Susan Geores
6/7 Educational Technologist
geores@aa.edu or 828-3114

Important Student Websites:

Email: webmail.aa.edu

Canvas: aa.instructure.com

Google Drive: drive.google.com

OneDrive: portal.office.com

AA: www.aa.edu