Ten Things Everyone Should Know about K-12 Students' Digital Learning, 2019

Students Speak Up on Technology & Learning

#1 Learning = playing digital games and watching online videos

Elementary students say their favorite ways to learn are:

✓ Playing digital games and watching online videos (45%)

✓ Using technology to collaborate with others (50%)

And the ultimate best is when they can learn about wildlife and animals too!

#2 Ed tech outcomes: is it creativity or engagement?

What is the impact of technology use in school?

52% of students in grades 3-12 say it is about developing creativity skills.

Engagement still matters but **only 4 in 10 middle school students** say it the most significant outcome – for them it is about acquiring future-ready skills.

#3 I'll take fries with that math homework!

While a majority of Grade 6-12 students say they use technology more outside of school than in school for learning

13% of students say they sometimes cannot do homework because they lack out of school Internet access.

Those students are **50% more likely** than students with home access to be at McDonalds or Starbucks doing homework.

#4 Ups and downs of students' social media usage trends

Facebook and Twitter – trending down!

2009: 66% of high school students said they regularly updated their Facebook accounts

2018: 67% say they rarely or never use Facebook.

Over the past 4 years, Twitter usage by high school students is down 40%.

Instagram, Snapchat and YouTube – trending up! No surprise: 40% of students say they learn more from watching a video than reading a book. The power of a visual image!

#5 Changing priorities – from social media access to faster Internet

Today's high school students say that the Internet at their school is too slow (54%) to support their schoolwork needs.

In 2011, only 1/3 of high school students had that complaint – instead their #1 barrier to school tech use was rules against accessing social media accounts (51%).

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#6 Being safe online

Despite media stories, only

35% of students report cyberbullying happens at their school

Only slightly increased from what it was in 2004 (31%) before everyone had smartphones.

Girls are **60% more likely** to say they know someone or have been a victim of cyberbullying than boys.

While 2/3rds of students say they know how to be safe online, **only 1 in 5 girls** say their digital citizenship skills are advanced compared to their peers – 36% of boys give themselves that advanced badge!

#7 Learning in 2019: it's via YouTube

1/3 of students in grades 6-12 use YouTube to help with everyday homework. 49% say they also use it for **self-directed learning** around academic areas of interest.

28% of middle school students have their own personal YouTube channel (do you?).

7% are running a YouTube business!

Maybe that is why 46% of students say they are **learning skills important for their future via YouTube** (only 43% say the same about school).

#8 Coding for all – but are students interested in coding?

While 43% of girls and 50% of boys in grade 3-5 say they are interested in learning coding, that gap widens significantly as **students get older**.

By high school,

46% of girls say they are interested in learning coding, but

62% of boys have coding on their bucket list.

What drives student interest? Coding helps develop creativity skills according to the students.

#9 Next Sheryl or Bill?

While boys and girls have almost parity in their interest in science careers, girls are almost 2X as likely to say they are <u>not interested</u> in a technology career field as boys. Only

13% of high school girls aspire to be the next Sheryl Sandberg while 31% of boys see themselves as the next Bill Gates.

However, both girls and boys want to use digital tools to explore careers:

- ✓ follow career professionals on social media (40%)
- ✓ take a virtual class about a career field (39%)
- ✓ play an online game about an industry (32%)

Best way to learn about a STEM career? Students say they would like an internship or part time job in the field. Are you hiring?

#10 Designing the perfect school for me!

The perfect school for today's students leans into **personalization with digital tools and resources that enable individualized learning** such as a Chromebook or laptop for every student (75% of K-12 students want this!), mobile apps for learning (61%), tools to create media and digital content (56%), online tutors (52%) and social media tools for collaboration (52%).

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