

Technology Skills...

MOUSE SKILLS:

- Move mouse pointer on the screen.
- Use mouse to single, double and right click
- Move mouse to highlight text on a screen
- Click and Drag/ Drag and Drop: Move items to a different location within the screen.
- Select/Deselect: Choose by checking and unchecking boxes
- Highlight: Color or shade in areas, text and objects on a screen.
- Hover: To move the cursor over an object or word.
- Scroll using a vertical as well as horizontal bar
- Select radio buttons
- Use drop down menus

KEYBOARDING SKILLS:

Click and type in a text box

- Delete/Backspace
- Shift
- Tab
- Return
- Space Bar
- Punctuation

OTHER TECH SKILLS:

- Navigate backward and forward arrows NOT on the browser
- Playing and replaying videos
- Become familiar with the tech tools such as the equation editor and on screen calculator

Test-taking Skills...

- Practice selecting multiple answers and giving multiple choices.
- Help students Understand test vocabulary such as "pick the BEST answer" or "select three pieces of supporting evidence."
- Encouraging students to look back at the texts frequently including math texts
- Show students about the format of the texts. For example, the texts list paragraphs or line number. Show students how to refer back to these.

Other...

- Build stamina in reading lengthy passages and recalling information. Students will be tempted to read part of the text and then start answering the questions on the right
- Build stamina working on the computer. Explain to students they may be on the same "page" reading a story and answering questions for quite a long time.
- Encourage students to bring any tech issues up right away ("I can't get my mouse to work." "The headphones are not loud enough.")
- Encourage students to try things that are hard. Encourage them to stick with it even when a problem becomes difficult.
- Focusing on the content required in the new standards and making the connections across disciplines. The ELA reading passages may be connected to social studies or science topics. Be sure to incorporate content area texts into your reading lessons.
- Prepare students for a mix of reading formats, from fiction to informational texts.
- Teach note-taking skills, so that students write down important details and vocabulary as they read.
- Develop vocabulary lessons in a way that is meaningful and in context. Help students figure out the meaning of a word from the text instead of teaching them the meaning directly.
- Engage students in a variety of writing experiences where students must cite evidence and use sophisticated vocabulary.

Things You Can Do Now...

- Take the practice PARCC test yourself (even if you are a K-2 or related art teacher!! Take several grade levels and jot down notes about how you will improve your instruction to help build capacity in our students. (<http://www.parcconline.org/practice-tests>)
- Embed teaching these skills and strategies into your everyday teaching. Don't wait for "test prep time." Develop questions about your content that are similar to the format being asked on PARCC.
- Take a deep breath! The first year for anything is hard. Continue to do outstanding teaching and build up the confidence of our students all around.