

TOP PICKS | 31 TOOLS

Best Tools for Schools Using Microsoft Office 365

Arts and Creativity Tools



Drawp Unlimited

Blank canvas will help kids express themselves creatively

**Bottom line:** This handy tool encourages collaboration and creative expression, and it makes sharing assignments and giving feedback a snap for teachers.

Grades: Pre-K-12 Price: Free to try, Paid

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Minecraft: Education Edition

Stellar collaboration tools, controls make Minecraft classroom-ready

**Bottom line:** An excellent tool to engage students in learning, collaboration, and critical thinking is now more accessible than ever to teachers.

Grades: K-12 Price: Paid

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Explain Everything Whiteboard

Powerhouse tool for creating stellar multimedia presentations

**Bottom line:** Teachers and students can make dynamic presentations that involve different types of media in this innovative, fun app.

Grades: 3-12 Price: Free to try, Paid

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WeVideo

Solid cloud-based editing site makes video creation simple and social

**Bottom line:** With two levels of editing tools and an easy-to-use interface, students of all ages should have no trouble creating and editing their video content to demonstrate learning.

Grades: K-12 Price: Free, Free to try, Paid

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Sutori

A slick way to share knowledge via interactive timelines and stories

**Bottom line:** With a super simple design, interactive features, and an imaginative personal approach, it's an easy and flexible tool for all kinds of classrooms.

Grades: 6-12 Price: Free, Paid

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Flat

Terrific composition tool empowers budding musicians to create, share

**Bottom line:** An excellent tool for writing and sharing musical creations.

Grades: 7-12 Price: Free to try, Paid

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## ELA, STEM, and Social Studies Tools



### BrainPOP Jr. Movie of the Week

High-quality animated videos engage young kids in a variety of topics

**Bottom line:** Great videos, though kids' learning should be enhanced with interactive elements to encourage deeper, more active learning.

Grades: K-3      Price: Free to try

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### Epic! - Kids' Books and Videos

Free, expansive digital library unlocks treasure trove of books

**Bottom line:** This large collection of books and videos on a wide variety of topics is an easy -- and free -- enhancement to any classroom library.

Grades: K-5      Price: Free to try

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### Matific

Engaging supplemental resource encourages conceptual understanding

**Bottom line:** A fun and engaging conceptual supplement for math lessons with easy-to-find standards-aligned activities.

Grades: K-6      Price: Free, Free to try, Paid

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### Lifelike

Impressive, interactive 3D models augment classroom learning

**Bottom line:** While some models are lower resolution and less appealing, Lifelike is still a no-brainer for supplying mostly clear, professional 3D models for deep investigation.

Grades: K-12      Price: Free to try, Paid

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### BrainPOP Featured Movie

Incredibly engaging cartoons on a wide range of topics draw kids in

**Bottom line:** These short videos are undeniably valuable as a teaching tool for elementary and middle school kids.

Grades: 2-8      Price: Free

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### SAM Labs

Kids use block code and wireless blocks to program, design, and create

**Bottom line:** With some perseverance, it's a great fit for PBL and STEAM, helping students learn programming skills and engineering concepts through invention.

Grades: 2-8      Price: Free, Paid

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### Microsoft MakeCode

Bring code to life with circuits, robots, Minecraft, and more

**Bottom line:** Once you purchase the hardware, MakeCode opens doors to an incredible diversity of coding applications.

Grades: 3-12      Price: Free

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## GeoGebra

Create, share, and modify math models and simulations

**Bottom line:** Free, open-source software that lets teachers build or adapt learning experiences to meet their kids' needs.

Grades: 6-12    Price: Free

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## Codecademy

Terrific coding site a fun way to learn real-world skills

**Bottom line:** For both introductory and higher skill levels, Codecademy teaches the breadth and depth of skills for the modern computer field workplace.

Grades: 7-12    Price: Free, Free to try, Paid

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## Classroom Management and Productivity Tools



### Nearpod

Interactive slideshow tool engages students, promotes collaboration

**Bottom line:** This effective tool leverages the capabilities of 1-to-1 environments and offers both teacher- and student-paced learning.

Grades: K-12    Price: Free, Paid

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### Skype

Live video communication has potential to open lots of doors

**Bottom line:** With a bit of work and a measure of patience, Skype can be an excellent classroom tool to expand students' horizons.

Grades: 1-12    Price: Free

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### PlayPosit

Simple design makes it easy to jump into interactive video

**Bottom line:** With features that are both basic and useful, it's an easy tool to learn; adding interactivity to video is a snap.

Grades: 2-12    Price: Free, Paid

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### Buncee for Education

Easy-to-use slideshow tool offers customization, promotes creativity

**Bottom line:** With the right guidance, the abundance of design features make creating dynamic presentations a breeze.

Grades: 3-12    Price: Free, Paid

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### Kahoot!

Game-like student-response tool can spark competitive fun

**Bottom line:** Effortlessly fun quizzing that can lead to productive formative assessment and student reflection if implemented effectively.

Grades: 3-12    Price: Free, Paid

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### Classcraft

Track behavior and motivate students with clever, cooperative game

**Bottom line:** Classcraft is a fantastic game for encouraging positive behavior while students build knowledge and develop communication and collaboration skills.

Grades: 4-12    Price: Free, Paid

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### Edmodo

Manage classes, content, and communication with social LMS platform

**Bottom line:** This free platform allows for teacher-monitored classroom communication but lacks excitement.

Grades: 4-12    Price: Free

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## Showbie

Flexible desktop, mobile assignment tool works best with pro features

**Bottom line:** A flexible way to collect student assignments and offer written and verbal feedback, especially with the premium features.

Grades: 5-12    Price: Free to try

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## Verso

Flip the classroom, gather student feedback with easy-to-use tool

**Bottom line:** Promote better discourse, participation, and accountability -- across devices -- with this thoughtfully designed platform.

Grades: 5-12    Price: Free to try

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## Microsoft OneNote

Note-taking giant built for flexible, collaborative work

**Bottom line:** A powerful (and free) tool for thinking and organization that's making smart strides in the education space.

Grades: 6-12    Price: Free

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## Sway

Create dynamic visual presentations on flexible storytelling platform

**Bottom line:** A seamless transition from design to presentation makes Sway a great fit for presenting carefully curated content.

Grades: 6-12    Price: Free

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## Microsoft Teams

Collaborative platform helps manage multiple groups and projects

**Bottom line:** It offers a ton of options for integrating learning; the lack of some typical LMS features may make it a better fit for small groups or nontraditional group configurations.

Grades: 6-12    Price: Free, Paid

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## Quizlet

App to find, create, use digital flashcards; website is better

**Bottom line:** A convenient way to find, create, and review digital flashcards, which have all the advantages and disadvantages of paper flashcards.

Grades: 6-12    Price: Free, Paid

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## Bulb

Slick portfolio tool has cool features, limited feedback options

**Bottom line:** A neat tool for publishing online, possibly better suited to teacher content creation than student publishing.

Grades: 7-12    Price: Free, Paid

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## myHomework Student Planner

Digital planner makes scheduling easy, if paired with teacher app

**Bottom line:** If used on a regular basis with teacher guidance and motivation, students can be ready to tackle their complex schedules with ease.

Grades: 7-12    Price: Free

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## OneDrive

Share files with Microsoft's free but limited cloud storage tool

**Bottom line:** For those in the MS ecosystem, it's great; it's even a solid choice for those in more, shall we say, indecisive schools mixing iPads and MS computers. However, others will likely prefer more full-featured competitors.

Grades: 9-12      Price: Free

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