A Growing Library of Windows 8 Apps for Schools

Building a 21st century learning environment

Schools investing in Windows 8 devices can now integrate an ever-increasing number of K-12 apps into daily classroom instruction. With more and more apps covering a range of grades and subject areas, Windows 8 laptops and tablets are driving a brand new universe of innovative digital tools and resources, adding to their already established value and support advantages for schools.

An immersive student learning experience

Windows 8 helps schools improve educational outcomes, bring learning to life, and build 21st century skills. Students interact with devices that have been specifically designed for both touch and mouse, mirroring their real-life experiences and supporting both personalized and collaborative learning inside and outside of the classroom.

As schools increasingly move to digital content, apps are playing an important role. The Windows 8 app library for schools now includes popular products such as BrainPOP®, Khan Academy®, and Stack the States™, as well as digital textbooks and innovative new apps such as CK-12© math and science, iTooch, and 21st Century Learning Design.

Many apps are available at no charge, and many have been developed first for Windows 8, with extensive support for Common Core and state standards.

Award-winning content across the curriculum

The award-winning **BrainPOP** apps provide schools with free as well as subscription-based content on topics across the curriculum. They are aligned to Common Core and state standards and are searchable by topic or standard, with special apps available for K-3, ESL, and Spanish-speaking students.

Teachers use BrainPOP to introduce a new lesson or topic, illustrate complex subject matter, or review information before a test, while also getting support through a free online learning community. Students find the BrainPOP movies and interactive activities highly engaging. A 2012 review in *Common Sense Media* described BrainPOP as "a standard-bearer for quality, self-directed online educational content."

Free interactive video tutorials

Khan Academy, another highly regarded app now available to Windows 8 schools, provides free access to high-quality video tutorials and assessments on math, science, and history. It brings

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> —Anthony Salcito, Microsoft in Education blog post

lessons to life even for tough topics like advanced geometry and gives teachers great visibility into student progress. Students practice at their own pace, with problems broken down into detailed steps.

According to Anthony Salcito in a 2012 *Microsoft in Education* blog post, "Khan Academy is beautifully suited for the features of Windows 8. For example, while watching a video tutorial online or downloaded and used offline, students can take notes on their computer or multitask on another project. Khan Academy for Windows 8 is designed to meet the learning realities of students head-on."

Personalized support for math and science

An exciting new product line for Windows 8 schools looking to enhance the STEM curriculum comes from **CK-12 Foundation**. These free high-quality math and science apps personalize learning and avoid the cost of quickly outdated print textbooks. Rich content aligned to Common Core standards includes customizable digital textbooks called Flexbooks®.

Over 5,000 STEM concepts are available in different modalities such as video, practice, assessment, and real-world applications; collaborative class and study groups; and interactive practice. According to Margo Day, Vice President, U.S. Education, Microsoft Corp, "These new CK-12 STEM applications for Windows 8 will make learning STEM subjects more engaging and personalized for the needs of individual students across the nation."

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New apps just for Windows 8

Many applications designed specifically for schools are now being built first for Windows 8. Called the **Teacher Collection**, these apps take full advantage of Windows 8 functionality. They include:

- *21st Century Learning Design,* a collaborative project with Microsoft that assesses content against the six dimensions of 21st century learning

- *Markbook,* for creating complex assessments and detailed reports

- *Lesson Plan Manager,* for creating, delivering, and reporting on lessons

- *Scaffolder,* for mapping out assessments, projects, or processes and exporting to other formats

- *Random Student,* for selecting individual students or groups

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A growing collection of digital textbooks

More and more eTextbooks are now available on Windows 8, from leading publishers such as Pearson, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, McGraw-Hill, Chegg®, Kno™, and Adaptive Curriculum™. Students can search content, watch videos, interact with simulations, access web links, create personal study guides, and more.

The expanding Windows 8 app library for schools supports a 21st century learning environment and creates an immersive experience for students with a full range of functionality. Educators can meet new curriculum standards and requirements for online testing, while ensuring secure content management.

Lenovo's education-built products are ready for the challenges of driving stronger learning outcomes and smarter processes in and out of the classroom. To learn more about Lenovo products for education and Windows 8, please visit: www.lenovo.com/education or contact a rep at eduteam@lenovo.com.

Sources

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- Villamagna, Dana, "BrainPOP," *Common Sense Media,* November 13, 2012

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