

AT ALERT

July 23, 2020



Thomas County Schools Assistive Technology Newsletter

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AT Online Inventory

Last spring we saw a shift of school, work, and many other activities going digital. I decided to improve our Thomas County AT Website and have our AT inventory go digital as well! You can now view the inventory in a Google Sheet from a link on the AT website. Each item is listed by AT number and description.

Most of the items are linked to a picture or a website with a product description. This will allow you to see the item and learn more about the intended use and type of student it will benefit. You can even see if the item is currently available or if it is checked out. If you see something you would like to try, just send me an email requesting it.

To access the webpage from the system home page click > Departments > Exceptional Students > AT Website (on the right hand side under the Links header).

You can also access this site directly at www.thomas.k12.ga.us/Content/assistivetechology

On the AT Website you will find:

- AT Inventory Link
- Presentations
- Consideration Guides
- Archived AT Newsletters
- Helpful links
- Reference guides



A few things to remember:

- As you read and review the IEPs of students on your caseload, let me know if there are AT items listed that you need.
- Assistive Technology has to be considered for every student at every IEP meeting.
- If an AT evaluation is being requested, please follow the NEW procedures outlined in the Special Education Manual.

I am looking forward to a great year! Please don't hesitate to contact me by phone, email, or text.

Alison Parker

alparker@tcjackets.net

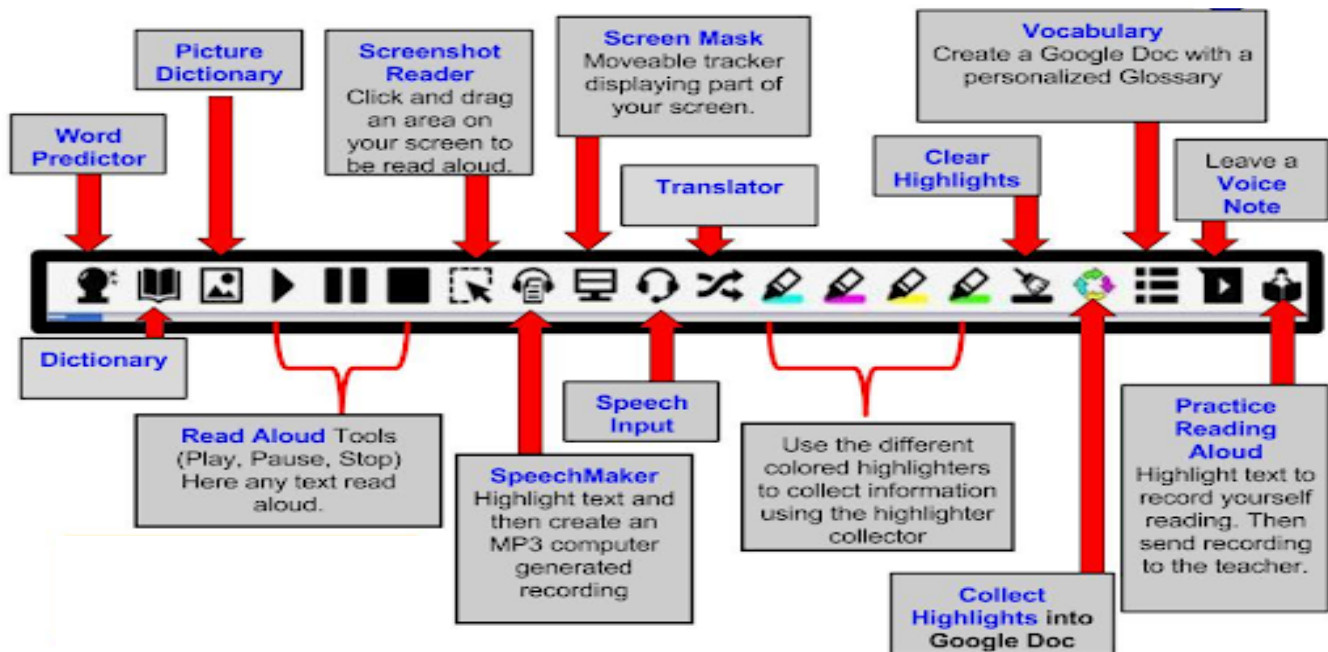
229-224-2352 (cell) 229-225-4380 ext. 127 (office)

Support Tools

Providing quality instruction and intervention remotely can be overwhelming! We have some tools available that can support students in both the traditional school and remote learning settings.

Read&Write (Grades 3-12)

Just prior to the shutdown last year we gained access to the Read&Write extension. This tool has many features that support independence and is available in chrome both inside and outside of the classroom. The graphic below gives an overview of the basic toolbar. For more information visit the Thomas County AT website where you will find links to resource guides and instructional videos.



Reading Eggs Fast Phonics—HnH and GP (some students at CC)

Reading Eggs has been an online program used in our system for many years. Recently they have added a learning area called Fast Phonics that focuses on synthetic phonics instruction. It includes animated teaching videos that follow the Letters and Sounds sequence based on best practices. It also has interactive practice activities, decodable books, printable resources, and an assessment and reporting piece. It is structured in the same way as other areas of Reading Eggs in that students advance through the skills in a sequenced path that is similar to a game. Many parents (and teachers) are worried about students who choose the remote option in the early grades as they are learning to read. This tool will provide an additional opportunity for these students to learn and practice phonics and strengthen their reading.

