



ELECTRONIC TOOLS WE USE:

- Microsoft OneNote – We use this free software as our electronic notebook (like a digital 3-ring binder with tabs, pages, etc.) OneNote is organized by week and holds our class agendas, handouts, and whiteboard notes. It also houses multi-media links and a page of our class Zoom recordings. I use it exclusively for online tutoring, and many at NASA use it regularly for business meetings.
- Canvas – The Canvas company is now the largest learning management system (LMS) software provider for higher education in the country - Rice University uses the Canvas software. We continue to add extensive Canvas software capabilities to our classes: multi-media assignment feedback, automated online peer reviews, moderated discussions for group critical thinking questions, gradebooks integrated with the actual returned homework, and rubric-based grading to name a few. Both the online software and excellent associated phone apps are free for students.
- Our physical Zoom Room – The Zoom Room equipment and software provide for a true hybrid (simultaneous online and in-person) learning environment. Here again we are all learning – the older students got to use my high tech DTEN large electronic whiteboard unit and found it “really cool”! (And they’re right – it is cool!) I plan to start sharing more of this opportunity next year now that I’m less nervous about the equipment! Some students got to give a presentation in-person in front of the Zoom Room high quality camera and use tools such as the electronic document reader. Great experience!
- TI-84 graphing calculators – All math students from Algebra 1 up are required to have a TI-84 – the most common calculator used for high school (including on the ACT/SAT) and higher education. We have used these calculators this year to graph equations, see mathematical transformations in action, and “get” the math better. The Algebra 2 students even used them to practice introductory programming skills!
- Adobe Scan - It’s the top rated free PDF software for smartphones - EVERYONE has gotten a LOT better at managing electronic PDF files! Some students PDF their homework and then submit directly into the Canvas software phone app. I’ve learned how to PDF something and submit it from my phone directly into the Class OneNote notebook. Impressive how much we’ve all learned in a year!

ONLINE SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPTIONS WE USE:

- IXL - Last fall I purchased an IXL teacher subscription that provides IXL access for all students in my year-long classes. A wonderful, nationally acclaimed online software program, IXL is used primarily for building K-12 English and math skills. The software automatically adjusts to each individual student, and I can privately monitor student progress live during class. I’ve started using this terrific tool as brief warm-up or mid-class tasks to check for understanding and also as homework assignments. Furthermore, IXL’s high quality phone app makes mobile learning effective and easy. See ixl.com for more information. And FYI, a family subscription for one student for 12 months runs about \$200 (\$16 per month). Fortunately, I get a good deal as a teacher, so I provide this to year-long math and English course students for no additional cost.
- Career Cruising - Because my focus shifted to getting IXL up and running, Career Cruising (CC) took a back seat this year. However, those families who asked for IDs got them, and we successfully used CC for the Careers class. I have always wanted homeschool students to have access to high quality software like this for help with discerning potential careers and higher education options, so I will continue to contract with the Career Cruising company. All Liftoff Learning students will have access to CC software for no additional cost. See careercruising.com for more info.