

Comments from the sixth graders:

“One example of technology helping me this year is in Google Docs. When I was doing my genetics project in science with my partner, I could revise the presentation and he could get the revised version of the project in seconds without me doing any work or taking time to send him an email of the presentation. Another example of is when there is not enough desktop computers in my humanities classroom and I need a computer I can always use the laptop cart as a technology resource.”

“One project that I enjoyed a lot this year was the "Trading of the Clans" project where we used iPhoto, Powerpoint, and Word. I enjoyed the project because I got to explore a new application, iPhoto that I had never used at the time. The other project that I enjoyed was the art project where we got to make really cool designs. I liked this project because I found out about more details and tools in Word.”

“I really enjoyed Garage Band in music this year because it was the first time I got to use it and it was really fun. I made it all myself and got to express the type of music I like and the choices I made. I also liked the cartoon in art class because it was fun being creative and starting from scratch and creating something that you thought of yourself.”

“Technology has assisted me immensely in everything I do, not only in tech class! In Humanities Word and PowerPoint have been so useful, no longer do I have to take hours to hand-write everything. Also, I've learned so much about technology this year, that I have been taking that information home to assist me with homework. This has been a tremendous help. My parents are so impressed with what I know about technology!”

“All the projects in 6th grade have been a blast, but I especially loved the Trading of the Clans project. It really energized my creative juices. But not only did we create objects; we used our creativity to make an educational Powerpoint. Another project I enjoyed was the Egypt and Mesopotamia Newscast Project. I had so much fun with the SmartBoard! Even when I shadowed here at Menlo, I was awed by the Smartboard, as I still am. It is so much fun to play around with and to use for educational purposes.”

“Technology has helped me because when I was working on a group project like baylands, DNA, and trading of the clans, I my partner and I were able to work at the same time, which was very helpful. Also, the email account has really helped because before Menlo, I didn't have an account and now I can email teachers if I need help or if I need to send an attachment to them.”

“It has helped my a lot with citations (Noolde Bib) It made the Water and Genetics projects a lot easier!”

“It has really helped when we made our Google docs and were able to work at the same time with our partner. I also liked using Moodle for homework instead of typing everything in Word or writing it down.”

“Technology and MS. Fortman, have helped me so much this year! I come here every morning, to do extra work, and fun stuff like that. The Google docs, in the science genetics project, have helped me so much, because, if you do the citations just on note cards, they can get lost.”

“Technology has helped me this year by making me more organized. I can also communicate better, for example, email and Moodle. Also, when I forget the homework sometimes, Moodle helps me because teachers post homework there.”

“The technology course in 6th grade is amazing! The resources are awesome, and I learned so many things. The technology was very helpful, and I use my Jupiter account every day to type up homework and do tasks. It is also very helpful in projects, like the water project.”

“I enjoyed doing our Latin project, ours being on the Roman navy. I did all my citations with Miss Fortman and Ms. Retteberg and I used Moodle to get some pictures. Also Magis posted due dates on Moodle and that helped me because I knew how long to work per day.”

“I liked doing my French Eiffel Tower presentation because it was fun making all of the animations. Another project that I liked from this year is the Newscast Project. I liked it because it was fun being able to use the Smart Board to teach my classmates through a presentation.”

“I must say, the Water Project monopolized my memories of sixth grade. Our presentation would have scuttled to Challenger Deep if it were not for PowerPoint. I cannot describe my passion for the environment and environmental sciences, and I enjoyed presenting my knowledge on them. Also, if I had to hand-write my whole essay, I would have taken four times as long. My speech, while giving the presentation, could not have gone better (well, I would've liked second block to see it.) The project will be undoubtedly my best memory of sixth grade.”

“I enjoyed my Japanese culture project because it was really interesting finding out about Japan's foreign relations. Technology promoted and helped my grade a lot. I liked the newscast because I'm not very good at history tests, but I'm a great public speaker and memorize and learn quickly. The science genetics project made me use my brain a lot more and it really helped me learn technology such as the Smartboard and PPT.”

“All the projects in 6th grade have been a blast, but I especially loved the Trading of the Clans project. It really energized my creative juices. But not only did we create objects; we used our creativity to make an educational Powerpoint. Another project I enjoyed was the Egypt and Mesopotamia Newscast Project. I had so much fun with the SmartBoard! Even when I shadowed here at Menlo, I was awed by the Smartboard, as I still am. It is so much fun to play around with and to use for educational purposes.”

“I like using the technology in a lot of things. Our Egypt/Mesopotamia newscast was very good because of the use of technology. We got to use the Smartboard which was very fun and it helped us teach. For geography and weather it was helpful because we could circle the area we are talking about. Also it was fun using it in trading of the clans. It was neat how we were able to take pictures and put them into a Powerpoint. I thought I knew a lot of technology but I was definitely wrong. Using the technology was helpful in a lot of the projects like the Baylands project. Although I didn't work on my Japanese project at school, I knew how to use Powerpoint because I learned how to use it at school.”

“I liked the project in art, where we got to use the drawing tools, in word. We got to make cartoons, to express ourselves in unique ways. I liked it because, we got to do what ever we wanted to do. We had a lot more freedom than we usually do. I really like to be more independent, than having someone just watching me like a hawk. I like the tools, because, they had so many shapes, and if you didn't find one you liked, you could use the drawing tool, to draw it yourself.”

Comments from the seventh graders:

"It has helped me edit a picture for English on Photoshop (which I do sometimes at my house on Elements) and I learned how to do equations with Excel."

"For my "Dude That's Wrong" project I created a Moodle survey to get some data. I also was able to use Photoshop to create a collage for English class."

"For the Dude, That's Wrong project I found Flash and PowerPoint particularly helpful. I included 3 flash animations in my Powerpoint presentation. Also, in English, we used Photoshop, GarageBand, and Blogging as a class, and then I used Flash individually. This was very helpful."

"I have really learned how to use Google Docs well and it was actually very helpful!! Also technology has made projects way easier like Noodlebib helped me so much I couldn't thank it enough."

"In my Dude project I wouldn't have been able to do it if it wasn't for technology Also in my music class when we used the computers for GB the technology and the ability to save without writing every note down was helpful."

"It has helped me go further into Excel and have a better understanding of it. I have also learned more about PowerPoint and how to make an exceptional presentation."

"Technology has been very helpful for me this year. One time where I used technology was when we had to make photos for English using Photoshop. Another time was during history when we had to make Powerpoints for various chapters in our history alive book!"

"Technology has helped me a lot by making things a lot easier and more manageable to do over the internet or online. It was really cool that we used Photoshop in English for our poetry unit. I had never used it before and found it very interesting. The Drugs PPT that we did in Human Skills was pretty cool too. It was the very first time that we learned how to make a stand alone PPT. Putting in the music was pretty cool as well."

"Technology has helped me in many different ways. First, the Drugs Powerpoint was a great opportunity for me to learn Powerpoint. In this project, we were assigned a drug, and we had to work on a Powerpoint to learn more about it. By using the computer lab, it helped me to remember Powerpoint again and how to use it. Lastly, the Poetry project helped me learn how to use Photoshop. It helped me understand how Photoshop worked and what to use it for."

"Technology has introduced me to Photoshop this year. I have always wanted to know how to use it, and now I am able to a little, but I still want more practice. Also, I have done a lot of projects including using PowerPoints. My work was really a lot more effective with my knowledge of PowerPoint."

"Another way technology helped me was when we did Excel for science graphs and in math class."

"The dude that's wrong project was a really big example of where technology helped me. Using the Internet to find research about my topic really helped. Also making a PowerPoint on the computers helped me a lot. Another example would be my human skills PowerPoint on GHB we learned how to use Google Docs which really helped me communicate and edit the research with my partner at the same time on 2 different computers."

"I enjoyed most of the projects I did involving technology this year. The GarageBand work for Music was fun because there was really no right way to do it. It was fun to work with the music on a computer and experiment with different sounds. I also enjoyed doing the art greeting cards because, once again, there were no really standards for your creativity to meet, and you were free to explore the technology given to you."

"I enjoyed the art card project, because it involved creativity."

"I enjoyed the English blogging project because I got to post things that I had written, and I was easily able to see pieces my classmates had written. I also enjoyed the human skills project because we got to put music into a Powerpoint which I had never done before."

"I enjoyed the movie trailer project in music class because my group was able to pick a trailer that we all liked (high school musical 3) and create music and sound that went along with it. I also liked making the class blogs in English. It was fun to write a short story and then post it up on a website. We could also look at everyone else's stories and design the background of the blog."

"I liked my free verse project because I learned how to use Photoshop and how to use Garageband podcasts. I also liked Dude That's Wrong because I got to make a slideshow which I then converted into a movie."

"I liked the Photoshop pictures for poetry because it was a creative way to show the poems. It was a bit frustrating to figure out all the programs, however. I also enjoyed the use of PowerPoint in my Dude That's Wrong project. It was a fun and creative way to show and share information."

"I really enjoyed the Drug PPT project because we got to learn about one drug and really show people how bad it was and Google Docs was actually much more helpful while making this project and I think that I am going to use it again in the future!"

"Dude- The visual aid in presentations are key, so knowing how to use these tools made it really easy for the audience to follow along. Music- I like music class in general but making music on computers was very fun and something new and exciting."

"It has helped me by letting me edit my documents because I can save them and edit them later without having to re-write them. It has also helped with letting me check my email for projects like the dude project or letting me use Google docs."

Comments from the eighth graders:

"Learning about Garageband and making a podcast for decades from it helped a lot because we were able to create our own sound (jingle) for the podcast and could choose how long we wanted each picture to be shown. Also, with my new knowledge of iMovie (from working on the French iMovies), I was able to successfully make a slideshow with music for our decades project."

“For my DC Journal, I decided to use Word to create the pages and compile the pictures. This was helpful because then I didn't have to develop my digital pictures; I could just use the digital copy and print them out. Also, Moodle is very helpful because when I am sick, like right now, some teachers post the notes and homework assignments for the day, so I can at least print them out and attempt to complete them at home. Also, I know what I missed and what I need to make-up.”

“iPhoto made it easy to make simple edits on photos before printing them for my D.C. journal. This saved a lot of time in the editing process. Comic Life helped make the Japanese reflection journals. Compared to Word, it was much easier to quickly format pictures, callouts, and headings.”

“It greatly helped me with decades because I knew I would be able to figure out any kind of technology which I might need to use. Also, working in the computer lab was easy because everything we needed to use would be explained by Ms. Fortman. Also, with all the projects we have worked on in 8th grade such as Comic Life and Civil War project, I have enjoyed using the helpful technology in the computer lab and on the portable laptops.”

“Technology has definitely helped me when writing documents. IT SAVES MY LIFE!!!!!! It is SO much easier to use a computer when writing a report than writing by hand. If we didn't use computers for the decades project, it might have taken an entire year. And once again, I will state that I am a Garageband fanatic. Computers and technology have helped me pursue my musical passion.”

“Art Photoshop-because I liked how, as my progress moved forward, more and more of my face became visible. Spanish Movie Project-because it was fun to look back at all our mistakes on the computer and find ways to make the movie more interesting.”

“Decades was fun because of the use of technology. The podcast added a new element to presentation that I was not familiar with before. The Japanese Comic Life project was fun as well.”

“I had a lot of fun with editing and putting together the French iMovie. I really enjoyed putting in all of the special effects, and editing sound and clip lengths. We really got to do anything we wanted to our movie to get it how we hoped it would look.”

“I liked creating a podcast in Garageband for my decades project. I think this was an interesting way to convey information to the audience during the presentation, and the use of visuals made it much easier to process all the facts and other info in the podcast. I also liked the Powerpoints in the decades project. Unlike the previous Powerpoints we've made at Menlo, these were much more aesthetically pleasing because the slides were primarily image-driven.”

“I loved doing my decades assignments using the technology. Whenever I imported pictures, they always came out much better. The same goes for my DC Journal. Being a Garageband connoisseur, I also enjoyed writing the soundtrack for the DC Slideshow. If it hadn't been for technology, I would not have been able to do these tasks.”

6th on Moodle

“I find Moodle very helpful. It is such a great way to incorporate technology and education! Also, it makes life a lot easier; making everything very efficient. Third, when I'm sick, I can always find out the homework, because it's almost always written on Moodle!”

“I think that Moodle is helpful because you can work on your assignment online and not print it, or you can look at the guidelines while typing without having to keep glancing down. It is also helpful because you don't need to copy the web address you can just click on the link provided. Overall, I think it is a really helpful tool.”

“Moodle is very helpful because we are aware of certain assignments which are posted up right away. Also, we can write journals without printing them on paper. Finally, we can find pictures and links the teachers have posted.”

7th on Moodle

“I find it helpful because it's easy to study when there are quizzes on Moodle (probably because I'm a kinesthetic (hope I spelled that right) learner). I also think it is helpful because, if you lose a sheet you can print it out at home.”

“For the teachers who do use Moodle, I think it is helpful. However, some teachers don't take the time/don't know how to use Moodle and I sometimes wish they would post the homework or worksheets online.”

“Moodle is helpful. Certain teachers never post anything on Moodle though. In Spanish, Ms. Barad puts practice quizzes on her Moodle page. In math, Ms. Willa has put up videos showing how to do certain problems, and has also put up printable graph paper. These courses use Moodle the most. In science, Ms. Limaye always posts the homework up, which I have found useful for when I am out sick.”

“OMG! It is soooooo helpful. I cannot count the times I have forgotten my homework or a worksheet at school. I can just go on to Moodle and get it off of there! It is soooo useful!”

8th on Moodle

“Yes, for the most part, I find Moodle helpful because if you missed an assignment or forgot to write the homework down, some teachers would post that information on Moodle. Also, in some classes, links to websites are on Moodle. It is, however, hard when not all teachers use Moodle.”

“I find it helpful when the teacher uses it right, like Ms. Barad and Ms. Rouser.”

“I find it somewhat helpful, although only a select few of the Menlo teachers use this tool. When teachers do update it with current assignments, it is very useful.”

“With some of the classes, it helps to know what is coming up in the future. However, not all of the teachers use Moodle, thus, I cannot know what's coming up in the future for that class. I always write down my homework in class, though, so I have no worry about forgetting my homework without having it posted on Moodle.”