

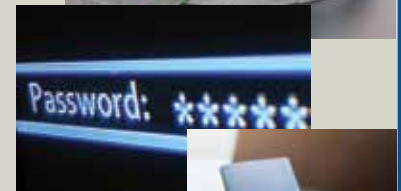


TECH LINK

Fall Tech Guide for Your Student

As the new school year begins, make sure the students in your life are prepared with the tech and cyber security tools to make their year a success. Here are the top tech considerations to keep on your radar this fall.

1. **Internet Package:** Do you have the speed your student needs for those research papers, group projects over Zoom and maybe even some study break gaming? Learn more about MVlink speed packages (up to 5 Gig) here: mvec.coop/residential-price-packages
2. **Hardware Essentials:** Prioritize battery life and portability over raw horsepower. An ultraportable laptop with 10+ hours of battery life and at least 16GB of RAM will serve your student much better through a long school day or a day of back-to-back lectures than a heavy, power-hungry machine.
3. **Cloud Backup:** Set up automatic cloud syncing (Google Drive, OneDrive, or iCloud). Follow the 3-2-1 rule: 3 copies of your important files, across 2 different storage media, with 1 copy stored offsite in the cloud.
4. **Password Hygiene & Security:** With campus portals, library databases, and student accounts, password fatigue is real. Encourage your student to use a dedicated password manager and turn on Two-Factor Authentication for all critical accounts to lock down your student's digital identity.
5. **Smart Use of AI & Study Assistants:** Generative AI tools are incredible for brainstorming, summarizing heavy readings, and generating practice quizzes, but treat them as a co-pilot, not an author.
6. **Centralized Digital Note-Taking:** Encourage your older students to ditch sticky notes and random desktop documents. Students can make notetaking more effective by adopting a unified system like Notion, Obsidian, or Microsoft OneNote to organize lectures by course, tag topics, and quickly search across an entire semester of notes when exam time approaches.
7. **Power On-the-Go:** Late-night study sessions require a portable backup plan. Get your student a power bank that supports USB-C Power Delivery (PD) to keep both their phone and laptop charged without hunting for an open outlet.
8. **Task Management:** Avoid missing assignment deadlines by syncing school portal calendar with your primary calendar app. Use a task management tool like Todoist or TickTick to break down multi-week research papers into manageable daily tasks.
9. **Digital Wellness & Focus Controls:** Leverage features like Apple's Focus Modes or Android's Digital Wellbeing to mute non-essential notifications during school or lecture hours and use blue-light filters during late-night study sessions to protect your student's sleep schedule.
10. **Student Discounts & Software Perks:** Never pay full price for hardware or software before checking your student's .edu email address. Most major platforms offer discounts or complete free tiers—including Microsoft 365, GitHub Student Developer Pack, Spotify, and Adobe Creative Cloud.



ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS: Don't Forget MVlink's Seasonal Security Package

As you prepare to escape the Iowa winter or close your summer cabin, don't forget that MVEC offers a seasonal security package for MVlink fiber internet members. Pay just \$19.95/mo. for 3 Mbps upload and 1 Mbps download—just enough bandwidth for your home security devices to continue monitoring your property while you're away. If you are interested in this package, contact our Fiber department today (fiber@mvec.com or 800-927-6068).