

TECH TIMES

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DID YOU KNOW?

You know those annoying tests that verify you're not a robot? CAPTCHA, which stands for Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart, has a secret double life. Every time you identify a bus, traffic light, or crosswalk, you're not just proving your humanity; you're also helping to improve AI algorithms for companies like Google. Congratulations, you're an unpaid worker in the AI training workforce!





CLASSROOM NEWSLETTER IDEAS

Use Google Gemini to Help Create a Template

If you're starting from scratch or want a refresh, try using AI to create your newsletter template. With a tool like [Google Gemini](#), you can describe the sections you want to include—like upcoming events, what we're learning, or student shout-outs—and ask it to draft a layout for you. This approach can save time and give you a structure you can reuse all year long.

Send a Newsletter Out as a Grade Level or Department Team

Instead of each teacher sending their own newsletter, consider sending one out as a grade level or department team. This can cut down on email overload for families and ensure a consistent message. You can use a tool like [Google Sites](#) to create a site. When you create a site it is added to your Google Drive, just like other drive files. The site that you create automatically save with every change you make and your site is not public until you post it. This tool is collaborative and you can set it up so only your team members can jump in and add new information.

Connect to a Google Form for Surveys or Sign-Ups



Make it easy for families to share feedback or sign up for events by linking to a [Google Form](#). Whether it's a field trip permission form, classroom volunteer sign-up, or a quick survey, embedding a form helps you collect info efficiently and keep everything in one place.

Keep Newsletters Fun and Functional

Whether you're just getting started or looking to refresh your newsletter routine, these tech-friendly tips can help you simplify your workflow and connect with families in meaningful ways. Try mixing and matching ideas to find what works best for your classroom!



Ways Technology Has Adapted Thanksgiving

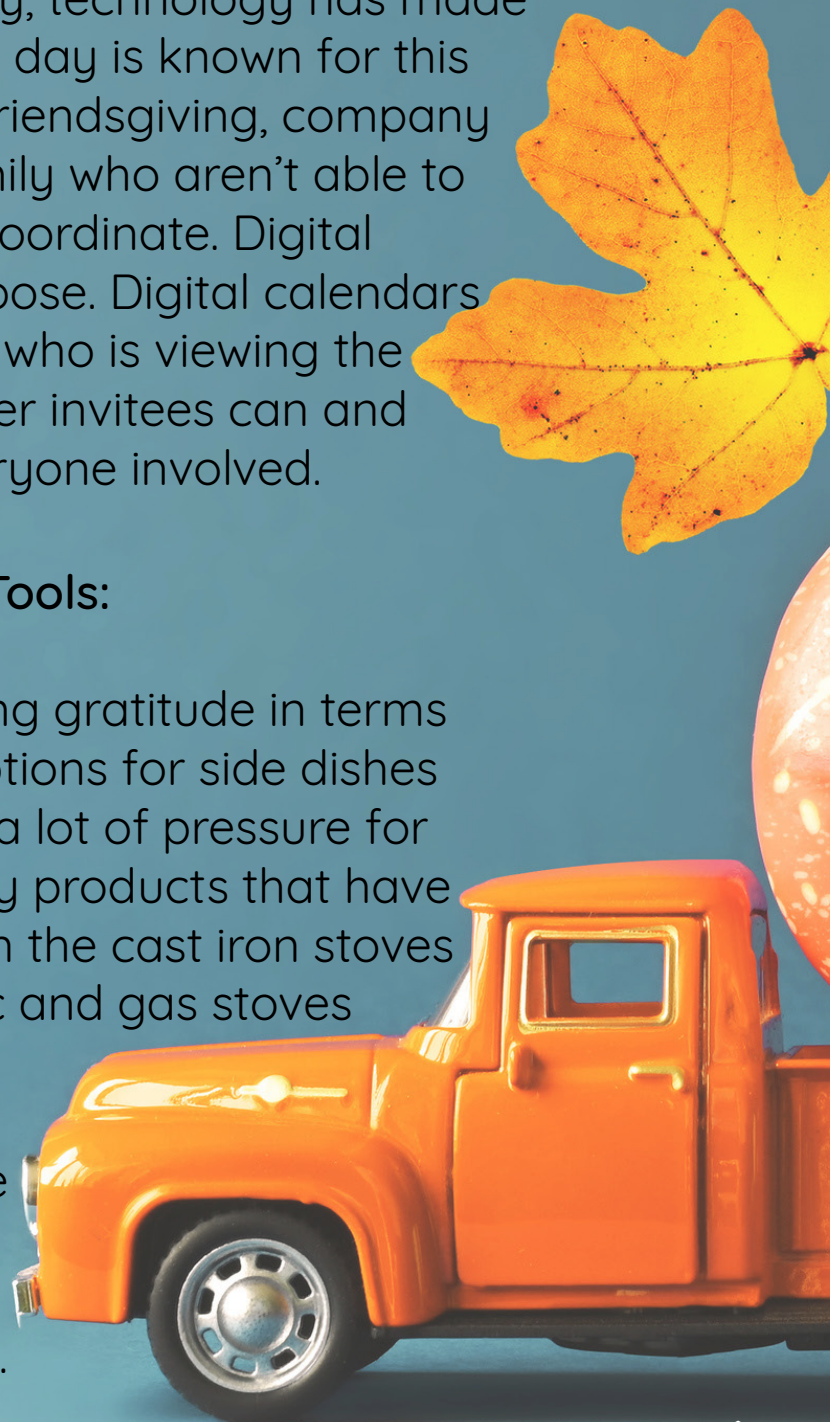
There are many traditions that have been brought onto us throughout the years for Thanksgiving, but the holiday has also evolved a lot too. Technology has shaped what we see as Thanksgiving in ways you may not have considered. Take a look at how technology has improved the different stages of Thanksgiving:

How We Plan for The Big Day - Digital Calendars:

If you have ever hosted Thanksgiving, you understand that although very rewarding, it is quite the undertaking. Luckily, technology has made this step just a little bit easier. Obviously the day is known for this event, but if you are thinking of hosting a Friendsgiving, company outing or secondary Thanksgiving with family who aren't able to make the main event, it can be difficult to coordinate. Digital calendars have come in handy for this purpose. Digital calendars plan the day out for you and allow anyone who is viewing the calendar to see in real time which days other invitees can and can't make, simplifying the process for everyone involved.

How Food is Made - Modernized Cooking Tools:

For many of us, food falls right next to giving gratitude in terms of priority for Thanksgiving. The endless options for side dishes and ways to prepare the turkey can cause a lot of pressure for a host. However, there are some technology products that have made this step a little bit easier. Rather than the cast iron stoves we may have used in the 1800's, the electric and gas stoves we use today, get the job done faster and more thoroughly. There are also a lot more helpful cooking gadgets available to us, like digital thermometers, timers and electric carving knives, which have helped shape a simpler Thanksgiving cooking experience.



Ways Technology Has Adapted Thanksgiving

How Food is Stored - Less Food Wasted:

Have any great Thanksgiving leftover recipes that you like to use with your leftovers? Thankfully, the wide array of refrigerators and freezers have made this possible. Before refrigerators, freezers, microwaves and even Tupperware was invented, Thanksgiving only lasted the meal. There was no such thing as post-meal dishes like “Thanksgiving leftover sliders” that many of us make today. Not only does technology allow for the enjoyment of Thanksgiving to extend past the day, but it also results in a lot less food waste.

How We Spend Time with Family - Entertainment Options:

Although eating as a group in one place together is always ideal, unfortunately, there are many cases where that is not possible. Through the expansion of technology, we have found other ways to connect with family members who can't be there, like having video calls. Nothing can replace being in person together, but a video call is still a great way to share a memory with family members that couldn't make the event. There are also newer traditions that have formed as a result of technology, like all the shows we choose to watch together on TV. From football to Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, there are many different entertainment options available to us to watch as a family on the big day.

Technology allows us to actually spend time with our loved ones on Thanksgiving. So, we are grateful for technological advances when it comes to the holiday's!



TETC 2025

The 2025 Annual Tennessee Educational Technology Conference (TETC), sponsored by The Tennessee Educational Technology Association (TETA), will be held Chattanooga, TN, December 3-5, 2025. The conference is for professionals committed to promoting the use of education technology in the classroom. Register here for TETC.

Happy
THANKSGIVING

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