

Day in the Life: Rochester

Let these students take you on a learning journey through the newly-visioned Rochester schools.

TO READ (TEXT VERSION)

NARRATOR- It was the start of a day filled with promise and opportunity for the students in the Rochester City School District. The promise is that every student has the potential to be the best he or she can be, and the opportunity is the prospect for each student to be able to use the available technology to learn, and create a place for themselves in today and tomorrow's world.

STUDENT 1-(on bus with device in hand)



I want to know what is happening as soon as I am on my way to school. Thank God this bus is equipped with wi-fi, 'cause I have to check if my teacher posted the grades from my math quiz. (checks grades) Cool. I did pretty well. Hopefully, our basketball team did as well. (checks device)

I got a minute before we get to school and I gotta get this drawing I did of a building in before 8 AM.

STUDENT 2-(student at home eating breakfast and checking device as parent looks on)

Hey Mom, you asked what I am doing today, here you go. (Hands device to mother or shows Mom class schedule)



MOM-Looks like you're busy today. Are you going to be able to help your sister after school?

STUDENT 2- I wish I could, but I'm manning the phones at our helpdesk for students. Not all the students are as sharp as me, Mom!

MOM-I just know that last year you struggled in your Earth Science class. I don't want you waiting until the last minute.

STUDENT 2- Don't worry about me this year. We're doing the coolest project. We're getting ready for a field trip to the river. (student checks device) Mom, I just got a text from Coach Gibson. He changed our practice until 4 o'clock tonight.

STUDENT 3-(student checks fitness tracker as he is walking with other student who attends and stays at the campus school) Man, this fitness tracker is da bomb! But I'm finding out that I'm

not as active as I should be. I need to walk at least 12,000 steps, and it's just not happening. Not only that, but I'm learning that I'm not eating the right stuff.

STUDENT 3 FRIEND-Where'd you get the fitness tracker? What's it for?

STUDENT 3- The fitness tracker makes it easy to track activity, sync stats, see trends, and reach goals. We're using them in our phys ed class. It's really cool cause we continuously sync the stats to our computer and smartphone. We get real-time access to our progress and reminders throughout the day without having to plug anything in.

STUDENT 3 FRIEND- Knowing you, I think the reminders are a good idea.

STUDENT 1-(Meets up with a couple classmates in room where academic coach is helping others) (approaches friend) I believe I know what Ms. Simmons wants for the project but I'm not sure of the location of these buildings we're supposed to evaluate.

STUDENT 1 friend- I say we use Google maps so we know where we're going.

STUDENT - Good idea. That should save us a ton of time and work. As a matter of fact, let's put the route on our laptop instead of killing trees by printing it.

STUDENT 2- (in science class online researching how to collect and compare water samples) Hey, I think I have the way we can collect water samples without cross-contaminating them. Hey Jamie, can you find out the best method for comparing the water samples once we get them? This is one of the coolest things we've done this year. I really didn't like science class last year. And having a laptop makes it easier and a lot more interesting than the 'old school' textbooks we used last year.

STUDENT 3- (is seen helping an adult with a laptop issue)

STUDENT 3 Friend (learning math formulas using device to project on board. In the math class students recharge devices while working on the quadratic equation theory of black holes) (Student 3 Friend sees Student 2) Hey, wanna go work out after school today?

STUDENT 3-I can't today. I'm working the student-run helpdesk. There were a lot of students out today. Must be the flu. Anyway, during school today, the helpdesk students were busy connecting and helping the sick kids at home with whatever they needed from school. You know, with assignments and homework. We even had some of the students connect live with their class so they wouldn't miss much. The students were able to join in from home using Skype or Face Time. But let's get together tonight or tomorrow.

STUDENT 3 Friend. I just remembered that I can't go to the gym either after school today. I'm going to #20 School. I'm a School-to-School mentor to some of the 4th and 5th graders.

STUDENT 3-What's a School-to-School mentor?

STUDENT 3 Friend. It's a pretty cool deal. As part of my *Participation in Government* class, we're involved with community service projects. I chose to work with some of the little kids, and help them learn how to study and get through their work. Most of them know what to do, but

there are just some kids who need real help. And to tell you the truth, I'm learning as I mentor these kids.

STUDENT 3- That does sound cool. Did you hear what Angel is doing now? Because he's so good with Spanish, he's working at the Baden Street center helping some of the Spanish-speaking families in the neighborhood get access to community services. And he's helping them learn how to use the computers there. He even had one woman Skype with some of her family in Puerto Rico.

STUDENT 3 Friend. Man, it looks like everybody's busy. I asked Julia if she wanted to hang out, and she's at the Eastman School working with music students over there. She's learning how to write music. The cool thing is that they all collaborate online. An Eastman student will write something, and Julia will add to it. They'll all be giving a concert later this year so we'll see if she's as good as she says.

(Two students – Student 4 looking up the research and Student 5 working on the course from our LMS together in a lab or library or on a bus.)

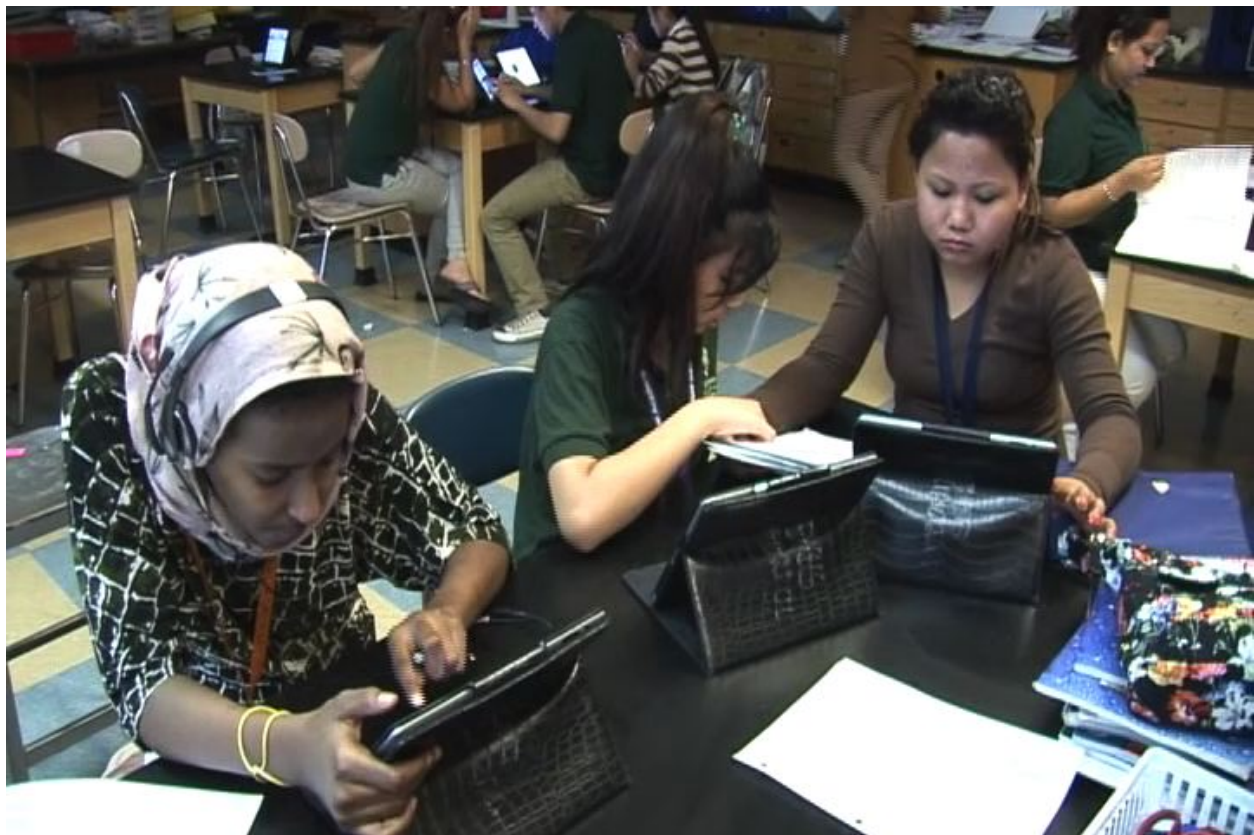


(Student 4 flips to a digital textbook on a laptop to look up some information . Student 5 with a laptop working on an online course.)

STUDENT 4 –I’m really into my digital textbook. Ever since we started using digital textbooks, I never have to worry about losing my books, and I can use them anywhere. I really like some of the activities in the digital textbooks too. Those old school paper textbooks were deadly, weren’t they?

STUDENT 5 – I totally agree. I am loving this new laptop we’re using. I’m taking an RCSD (Rochester City School District) online course in computer programming. My teacher is really helpful. He is in constant contact with us. I get to keep the laptop as long as I take care of it. It’s not an easy course, but I’m learning a ton, and having this laptop makes it easy to use anywhere. Instead of an hour wasted on the bus every morning, I get an hour of work done. Now on the bus in the morning, I get almost an hour of work done instead of that boring ride. We’re using laptops for everything now.

STUDENT 4 – Same here. I read my assignments while on the bus, and my teacher said that she likes digital textbooks because they can provide more current material than print textbooks, which can take a year or two to get to print. I like them because I don’t have to carry all those books I used to carry. Now everything is in one package.



NARRATOR: Many of our families are below the poverty level and cannot afford costly Internet access services. But that does not preclude them from getting online. The City of

Rochester has a program: Equity to Access Initiative, that grants its residents Internet access through a free 'wi-fi blanket'.

The youth of Rochester are now engaged in sustained, year-round learning as the Rochester City School District uses online instruction to extend student learning beyond the school day. Students use their district-provided devices to stay connected with their teachers, complete homework, and gain experience, knowledge, and skills through exploration. Instruction is scaffolded to address the unique needs of each child. Online learning is used for initial credit classes, as well as for credit recovery and Regents review courses.

In the Rochester City School District one of our core beliefs states, "we have an ethical responsibility to ensure readiness for college, career, and responsible citizenship." We believe that we can achieve our goals and help create students that are job ready, career ready, and active citizens in the community. To help accomplish this goal we believe that we need to embrace modern technologies and teach our students how to use the technologies so that our students can achieve their fullest potential.