

**ASSISTIVE
TECHNOLOGY**

**EMPOWERING
EDUCATION**

INTRODUCTIONS 24-25 AT SPECIALISTS

Jeanette Plumb

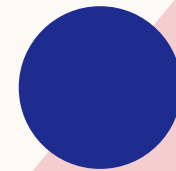
- Occupational Therapist
- Background in hand therapy, pediatrics, and schools
- Preschool – Transition

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- Speech Language Pathologist
- Background in schools
- Preschool – Highschool

WHAT IS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (AT)

AT is defined as "any item, piece of equipment or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of children with disabilities" (IDEA).



WHAT IS AT?

Continuum of low tech to high tech

- Special purpose computers, unique software, switches, communication boards, speech generating devices, specialized keyboards, etc.

AT can....

- Provide academic supports
- Provide communication supports
- Increase independence
- Improve access to curriculum
- Support diverse learning styles

TODAY'S GOAL

Introduce you to various Assistive Technology (AT) and Educational tools available to students (and 1 for parents!)

Empower you to support your student's use of these tools.

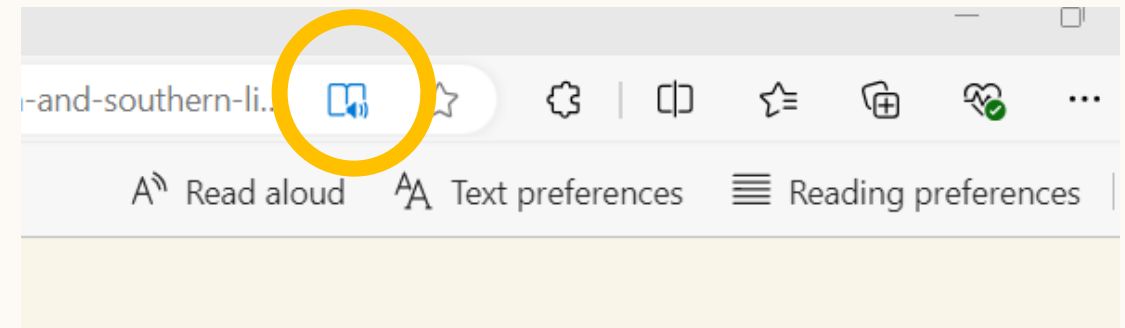
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TOOLS

Let's introduce you to some tools!

IMMERSIVE READER

A free tool that helps users read and understand text more easily

Microsoft Edge



Includes

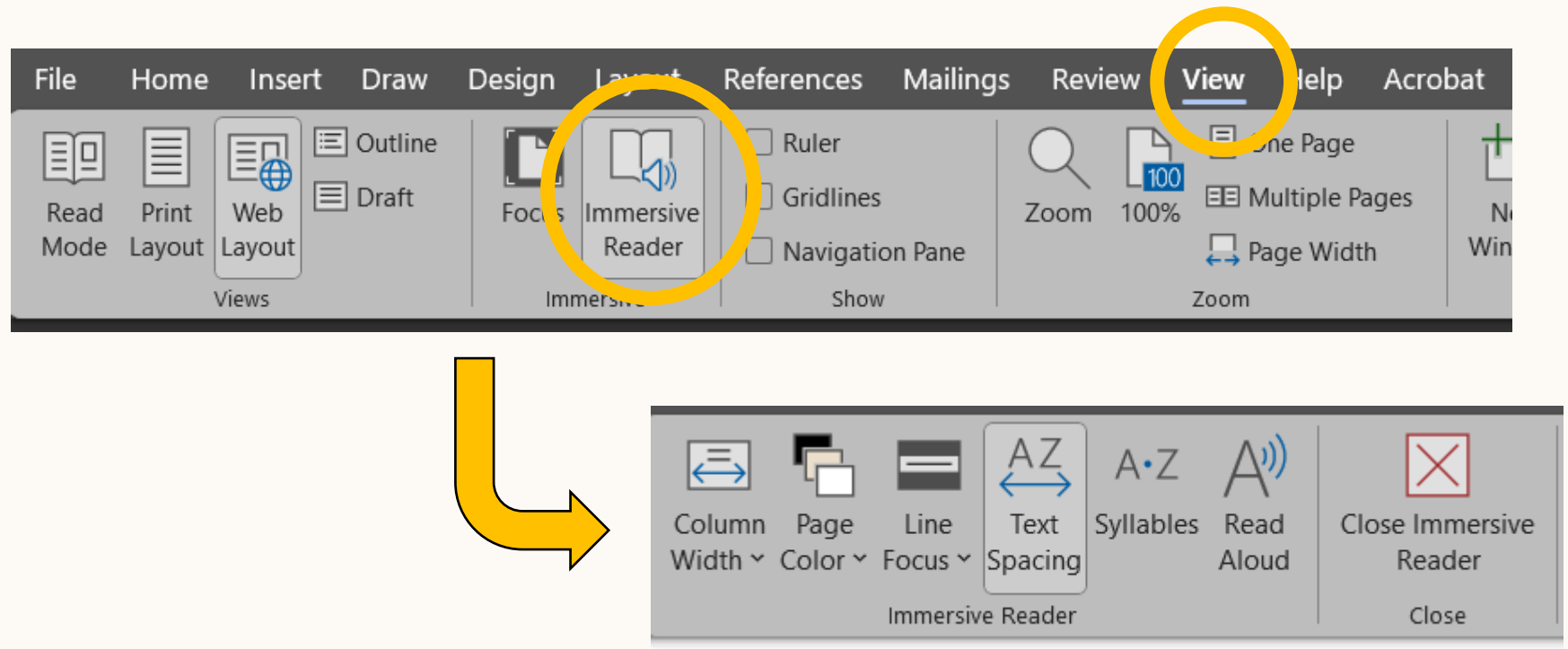
- Read Aloud
- Text Preferences (e.g., size, font, text spacing)
- Reading Preferences (e.g., line focusing, translation)

IMMERSIVE READER

Microsoft Office Suite

View → Immersive Reader

Outlook, Teams, One Note, Word, PowerPoint (in browser), PDF (some)



IMMERSIVE READER CONSIDERATIONS

- Not all websites work – look for the icon
- Pictures/infographics are not accessible
- Troubleshoot
 - Find another source with the information
 - Type some information into a word doc

READ ALOUD

Microsoft Edge

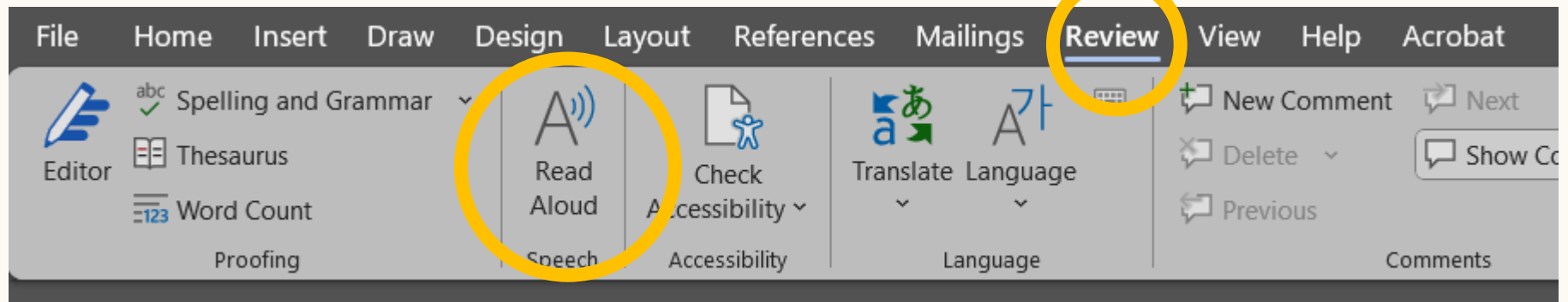
Read Aloud icon at top of browser



READ ALOUD

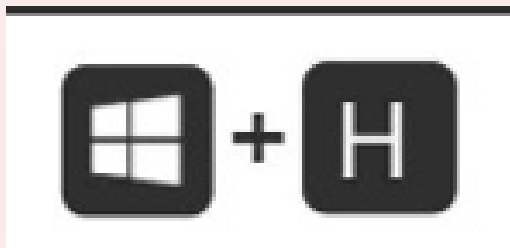
Office

Review → Read Aloud



SPEECH TO TEXT

- Allows students to dictate to computer
- Helpful if writing, spelling, or typing are a barrier
- Dictate Icon (within Microsoft Suite)
- Windows Icon + H (on keyboard)



Steps for using Speech to Text!

1. Think it! Think about what you want to say before you start typing.
2. Say it! Dictate to the computer.
3. Check it! Read aloud – does it match what you wanted to say?
4. Fix it! Edit what you need to.



To use dictation, go to Settings and turn on online speech recognition

WORD Q 5

- A software that provides word prediction, speech feedback, proofreading, and specialized vocabulary support
- Word Q5 “floats” as a tool, meaning it operates across various computer applications
- Must be downloaded from Software Center
- Available to all LWSD students and staff
- Adapts to learn which words you use; can be modified for specific vocabularies

Software Center

Lake Washington School District

Applications

Updates


Operating Systems

Installation status

All Required Featured

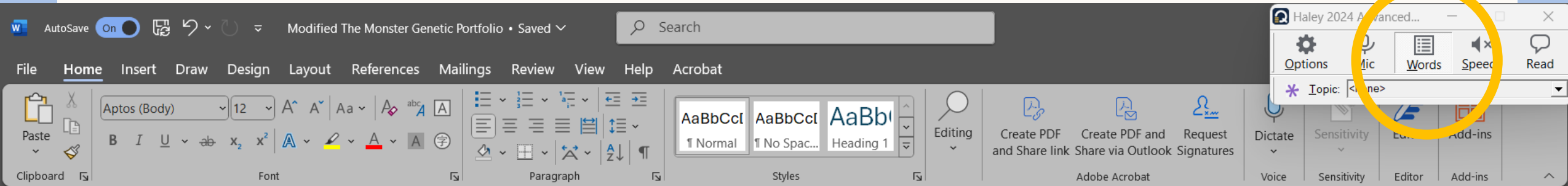
Filter: All Sort by: Most recent

WordQ

Name	Publisher	Version	Status
 WordQ 5 (5.4.30)			Installe

WORD Q 5

- Search for the application
- Turn on word prediction



Level 2

1. Describe a project/area of study a geneticist might work on in real-life.

A geneticist might want to rese

- 1 research
- 2 reserve
- 3 reset
- 4 resemble

CLICKER 8

- Literacy support software
- Common tool you hear talked about in IEP meetings
- On all elementary student computers; can download on secondary computers
- Can function as a
 - Document
 - Learning tools (e.g., Clicker sets, books)
- Wide range of tools –
<https://www.cricksoft.com/us/training/clicker-training>

CLICKER 8

- Document feature
- Turn on pictures and word predictor
- Example:

The screenshot displays the Clicker 8 software interface. The main window shows a document with the following text and images:

There are lots of different farm animals. Some examples are pigs, horses, and chick

The text "chick" is highlighted, and a word predictor dropdown menu is visible, showing the following options:

- chicken
- chickens
- chick
- chicks

The 'Options' menu is highlighted, and the 'Predictor' and 'Pictures' options are circled in yellow. The 'Options' menu includes the following items:














































































- Speech
- Predictor
- Spell Check
- Pictures
- Display
- Access
- Restore
- Export
- Explorer
- Word Pool
- Manage

The 'Options' menu is divided into 'USER OPTIONS' and 'PROGRAM OPTIONS'.

AI

- Parent facing tool
- You can use this to help you understand topics so you can help your student
- How to ask the question
 - Who are you?(ROLE)
 - What is the topic?(CONTEXT)
 - What do you need?(ACTION)
 - In what form?(SPECIFICATIONS)
 - e.g., length, bullet points, paragraph, complexity)

AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION (AAC)

I, Me 	Want 	Need 	Who 	What 	Where 	When 	Why 	Not, Don't 	More 	All 
My, Mine 	We, Let's, Ours 	Can can 	Get 	Put 	Take 	Listen, Hear 	First 	Then, Next 	Finish, All Done 	Some 
You, Your 	They, Their (s) 	Give 	Play 	Feel 	Come 	Tell, Say 	Up 	In 	Big 	Good 
He, Him 	They, Their (pl) 	Do 	Make 	Read 	Write, Draw 	Look, See 	Down 	Out 	Little, Small 	Bad 
She, Her 	It, That, This 	Like, Love 	Think, Know 	Drink 	Eat 	Choose, Pick 	On 	Off 	Fast 	Slow 
Friends Partners 	Adult Teachers 	Help 	Open 	Close 	Fix, Solve 	Wait 	Again 	Here, There 	Quiet 	Same 
Yes  YES	No  NO	Unsure, Maybe 	Stop 	Go 	Turn 	Away, Space 	Break 	Problem 	Ready 	Different, Change 

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) offers individuals a communication system that can enhance, supplement, to or replace speech if someone is non-speaking.

This might be a book of pictures, a specialized app, or dedicated communication technologies. Think of AAC as a set of tools and strategies that are used to solve everyday communication challenges.

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT AAC?

Use it yourself!

- Practice using it to communicate a range of functions by yourself
 - Describe the weather
 - Say hello
 - Tell a joke
 - Ask someone for help
 - Play a game
- How can we expect our students to learn if we don't try it ourselves?!

Then Model for your student!

- Point to the words on the AAC as you speak
- There is no demand that the student also uses the system
- Inspire don't require - Show them how!
- Make mistakes and show your thinking
- Have fun



HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

Work with your school teams - your school teams will connect with us!

THANK YOU

We hope you feel a little more empowered to help your students access assistive technology!

Go explore!

SSAssistiveTech@lwsd.org

LWSD Assistive Technology Site –
<https://www.lwsd.org/services/special-services/assistive-technology>

