Use of Virtual Assistants for Schoolwork

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# Siri

* <https://www.teachthought.com/technology/7-pros-and-cons-of-using-siri-for-learning/>
  + Record-keeping
    - This seems to be the most common way Siri is being employed in classroom settings. Today’s professors have to maintain copious amounts of documentation on their students, and many have streamlined the process of note-taking and documenting conferences with students and parents by using Siri.
  + Calling and emailing
    - These are among the top uses of Siri in the general population, and teachers are no exception. With her they don’t have to lose their place in gradebooks and exams when they come across the need to call or email a parent or a colleague about a troubled student or an upcoming meeting.
  + Problem solving
    - Kansas teacher Marsha Ratzel’s students used their iDevices to gather info for an estimation problem involving diapers in a large shipping package. While it couldn’t give them the exact answer, it did help them discover info on the different sizes of diapers that helped them reach a solution.
  + Setting reminders
    - The reminder function of Siri is one of its biggest draws for adult users. With it, school kids are able to keep track of homework, projects, and tests with just a word to their animatronic friend.
  + Note-taking
    - Although better options exist, older students in high school and college can - and are - putting Siri to work taking notes and transcribing lectures.
* <https://www.bachelorsdegreeonline.com/blog/2013/10-ways-siri-can-help-you-finish-your-homework/>
  + Set reminders to do your homework
    - Using Siri, you can set reminders to pop up at an appointed time, or even better, when you arrive at a particular location.
  + Locate the books you need
    - Siri can help you zero in on the books you need to study. Identifying books, you can check out at your library or download online is a snap, and you don’t even have to type to do it, making your first step in research hardly a step at all, thanks to Siri.
  + Get a quick view of what you have to do
    - As long as you keep all of your to dos on your Calendar, Siri can tell you what you have left to do when, if only you ask. You can even ask for a specific time period, asking, “What do I have left to do this week?” and she’ll bring up a list for you to work from.
  + Find images with Wolfram Alpha
    - Siri has the hookup with Wolfram Alpha. Not familiar with Wolfram Alpha? Get ready to be impressed: it’s the ultimate place to access the entire knowledge of the world. You find visualizations of just about everything just by asking Siri. Want to know what a groundhog looks like, or see the state flag of South Carolina, North Dakota, or Hawaii? Siri will have an answer ready for you in about five seconds or less.
  + Ask questions
    - Beyond images, Siri’s Wolfram Alpha engine can answer all of your questions, including the square root of anything, state flowers for Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, etc. and information about all of the U.S. presidents. You can also find definitions, so there’s no excuse for misspelling or misusing a word: you don’t even have to type to find it!
  + Get help with math questions
    - Siri + Wolfram Alpha isn’t just useful for images and information queries, it’s perfect for math homework as well. Use Wolfram Alpha for help understanding math concepts, checking answers, and even doing calculations. Siri can even do calculus!
  + Use Siri to dictate text
    - With Siri Dictation, you can simply speak what you want entered into text, and Siri will type it for you.
  + Dictate annotations with Siri
    - Take dictation a step further and put Siri to make notes on PDFs, whether they’re books, class handouts, or your syllabus.
  + Set timers for productivity
    - If you have trouble focusing on homework for long periods of time, let Siri help you out. Make a goal to work for 20 minutes straight and use Siri to set a timer. She’ll let you know when time is up and it’s time to relax. You can set a timer for that, too, of course, and she’ll give you an alert to get back to work.
  + Take a humor break
    - Siri really is the ultimate homework assistant. When you’re feeling burnt out and found everything you could possibly want to know on Wolfram Alpha, there’s still more she can do. What is it, you ask? Siri can offer comic relief. Just try talking to her, she’s quite clever. Questions like, “What’s the meaning of life?” and “Who let the dogs out?” can give you a grin when you need it most.

# Google Assistant

* <https://www.edtechteam.com/blog/2020/08/how-to-use-the-google-assistant-in-your-classroom/>
  + Everyday Uses – Inquiries
    - Spelling
    - Searching
    - Brainstorming
    - Information
    - Humour
    - Location
    - Time
    - Weather
  + Classroom Organization
    - Calendar
    - Reminder
    - Timer
    - List
    - Play music
  + Student Support
    - Reader/writer
    - Dictation
    - Language practice
    - Translation
* <https://www.cnet.com/how-to/ways-google-assistant-can-help-with-homework/>
  + Study timer
  + Reminder
  + Translation
  + Calculator
  + Problem solving

# Amazon Echo/Alexa

* <https://www.aboutamazon.com/news/devices/how-alexa-can-help-your-family-stay-organized-this-school-year>
  + “School Schedule Blueprint”
  + Focus Time “Routine”
  + Updates through an education app
  + Study break
* <https://www.edsurge.com/news/2020-02-20-how-voice-enabled-technology-is-changing-the-contours-of-higher-education>

# Bixby

* No specific information on Bixby for educational use.