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Name it: smaller, sleeker, faster - and people have built it. Imagine it - and people will create it. Technology allows us instant access to information. Instant entertainment. Instant communication. It lets us reach farther by reducing the restrictions of an analog world. It is time we gave education such capabilities.

Technology has the potential to advance the way we learn in four main ways: -

1. The interactive quality of technology will engage kinetic and visual learners. Using innovative learning tools will inspire students to be innovative. With advanced technologies, such as touch screen and wireless, kinetic learners can interact more easily with programs. Simulations and interactive video, for example, can help visual learners. Far into the future, robots in the classroom may add yet another dimension to learning. Using new technologies will make students more receptive to information.
2. Using new technologies will save more natural resources. Each day, faculty and students use and throw away an unrestricted amount of paper during school. Unfortunately, many schools do not recycle, even if they do have recycling bins. Everything is just dumped in with the trash because recycling is "too much of a hassle." Technology can reduce the amount of paper we waste. Documents, notes, and even textbooks, can be converted into electronic versions, which can be distributed easily to a larger number of people.
3. Technology is cost efficient, space efficient, and physically efficient. Schools purchase thousands of textbooks, reading books, and workbooks. At a cost of about sixty dollars a textbook and fifteen dollars a reading book, the proper learning materials can be quite expensive. And replacing deteriorated or defaced school materials is yet another cost. Electronic versions do not deteriorate, and cost less because less physical material is used. Furthermore, technology does not take up the space that textbooks and books do, and technology is easier to transport than fifteen-pound backpacks.
4. Technology will allow us to interact with students and teachers from other countries. Technology has made it faster and easier to reach people across the world. With email, pen-pal relationships are more easily formed. With video communication, not only can we talk to others using technology, but also see them as we communicate. With such technologies, international learning is more accessible. We can learn more about how students from other cultures learn. Such technology brings us an interaction, cultural experience, and expansion of knowledge that is deficient in our learning environment today.

Through technology, we can unshackle ourselves from the physical limitations of the current learning environment. Let us build and imagine, instead of listening to lectures. Let us advance ourselves without exploiting our resources. Let us meet people with ideas we have never encountered. Give us a new way to learn.