

The Smart Way to Use Phones in Class—Apps for Productivity

Now is the time to start encouraging high school students to use their smart phones or handheld devices for more than social media. Each Tuesday the students in my business classes are given an assignment to be completed within five school days. They can use their smart phone or they can use a school computer to complete each assignment. The selected Apps promote productivity for both their personal life and their career. Here are my assignments for the first semester:

1. Infinite Campus (to check grades/assignments)
2. tip calculator; find an 18% tip on a \$89.40 restaurant bill
3. alarm to awaken and arrive to work/school on time (the alarm must go off in class)
4. dental appointment with 15 minute audio alert (the alert must go off in class)
5. calendar entry covering multiple days (examples are for a work schedule or sports/speech practice schedule)
6. camera; take a picture of notes on a whiteboard and text them to me along with a message and your name
7. camera; take a picture and e-mail it to me with a subject line
8. scan a QR code from a magazine or newspaper
9. use an app for shopping and getting discounts/coupons
10. screen capture and upload; crop the image for use in a document
11. inverse colors (movie theatre use)
12. yelp; find a sandwich shop in Billings or a coffee shop in Missoula
13. map or locator; walking directions within town AND driving directions to larger city (show me how you would walk to a local restaurant; show me how you would drive to the Billings Metra)
14. math solver app (key in a formula to determine interest rate on a car loan; $50=2500 * x *.25$)
15. magisto; create a video using at least 5 pictures
16. Pinterest; find a recipe for biscuits and gravy breakfast casserole (No Pinterest account? Just Google for a recipe)
17. mdttravel for winter road conditions

I have the following ideas for second semester and am always on the lookout for new ones:

18. banking app; see last 10 transactions (If no bank account, go to a local bank's website and find a loan calculator for a car loan)
19. progressive or car insurance app
20. turbotax or other tax prep app
21. identify a method to make payments from your phone
22. venmo to pay monthly rent
23. dropbox or another cloud storage app (other than Google Drive)
24. Uber or Lyft for finding a cab

Please send additional ideas for productive use of a phone to janiehmcfarland@yahoo.com.