Rock Brook Technology Update:
By Ms. Maggie, Technology Classroom

April seems like a great time to talk about the ever-changing field of Technology. It seems like almost every day new "apps" are being unrolled and new "blogs are being created. Social Media has been woven into the threads of all our lives from "Facebook" to "Twitter" to "Instagram". Rock Brook, being a "Tech Forward" school has embraced all the areas of technology that provide our students access to new learning experiences in school and in the community. This pairing of an ever-changing technology field and the latest concepts in education make for a field that is jam packed with newly coined words, labels, acronyms and abbreviations. Let's take a moment to review and understand some of the most current "techno- speak" that is defining the Educational Technology field at the moment!

"**App – short for application**" - a computer program that allows people to use the computer as a tool to accomplish a specific task. Word processing, spreadsheets and communication software are all examples of applications. There is also software applications/ "apps" that have been developed for use on tablets such an iPad. These too a designed to perform a specific function.

Blog – a regularly updated website or web page, typically one run by an individual or small group, that is written in an informal or conversational style.

Blended Leaning- The mixing of traditional classroom learning and self-guided online learning.

Digital Literacy- The skills necessary for finding, evaluating, using, sharing and creating online content or using online tools.

Infographic – short for "informational graphic" or a visual representation of information.

"Search up" – A newly coined term or what we often call "googling". Students today are using this the same way we use to "look it up" in books or libraries.

Tags – Keywords associated with digital content and media across platforms. We see this most often in the form of hashtags like #Rockbrook on social media.

Web browser – commonly referred to as a "browser"; it is a software application for retrieving, presenting and traversing information resources of the World Wide Web. Some popular web browsers include Firefox, Internet explorer, Google Chrome and Safari.

World Wide Web- commonly referred to as the WWW or the WEB; it is an information space where documents and other web resources are identified by Uniform Resource Locators (URLs), interlinked by hypertext links, and be accessed via the Internet.

URL – Stands for "uniform resource locators"; It is the web address of websites; A URL bar is at the top of a browser screen.

Hypertext links – a hyperlink, or simply a "link", is a reference to data and information that the reader can directly follow by clicking, tapping or hovering over the link.

 Virtual Classroom – An online space for students and educators, like Google Classroom.

Techie – a person who is an expert in or enthusiastic about technology, especially computing.