DYSLEXIA CHARACTERISTICS

ACADEMIC

- Difficulty reading
- Difficulty learning connections between letters and sounds
- Confusing small words
- Difficulty understanding rhyming words
- Difficulty with handwriting
- Avoids reading out loud
- Poor spelling
- Difficulty learning foreign languages

BEHAVIORAL / SOCIAL

- Family history of reading and/or spelling difficulties
- Low self-esteem
- Trouble remembering dates, names, phone numbers

PHYSICAL

- Can appear restless and easily distracted
- Can pause/hesitate before speaking
- Oral language difficulties
- Can experience fatigue when reading

STRENGTHS

- Often gifted and creative
- Imaginative
- Talent for building models
- Often loves puzzles
- Ability to see the big picture
- Highly articulate when expressing ideas
- Shows great empathy and warmth

The practice of Universal Design for Learning benefits all students, even those who do not require or receive disability related school accommodations.

SOURCES:


ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY
Any item, piece of equipment, software program, or product that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of a person with a disability.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR DYSLEXIC STUDENTS
Technology that allows for students to participate in GE classes and accommodate for any learning challenges presented by their LD. There are several examples of assistive technology that can be utilized to support as well as increase self-confidence for students with dyslexia.

Academic areas that affect dyslexic students that can be helped with assistive technology include the following:
- Listening and speaking
- Reading and spelling
- Writing and organizing

TEXT TO SPEECH
Technology that allows students to access knowledge of their ability and reading ability of fluency should not hold a student back. There are several free resources that can translate digital text into audio. Reading with assistive technology helps reading without it due to the fact that students have greater exposure to words and their correct pronunciation as well as greater exposure to vocabulary and complex syntax.

Examples: Raz-Kids, Read and Write for Google Chrome

AUDIO RECORDERS
Technology that supports students spelling and writing. This writing technology may be very simple – such as typing, word processing and spell check; to more advanced – such as word prediction software for grammar, spelling and writing where technology to help the student use their natural speaking to put thoughts to paper.

Examples: Mac Diction, Talk Typer

SPEECH TO TEXT
Technology that supports note taking. Students are able to record instruction while taking notes in order to be able to pay attention to class and not miss any important information.

Examples: Smart Pen, Note Talker, Livescribe Pen
