




Did you know that your school board purchases software to improve your learning experience? Word Q, **Dragon**, **Read & Write Desktop** and **Smart Ideas 5** are available to you on every computer in the school. Some of you may have used these programs in the Academic Resource Department, or in the computer lab with your teachers. But, in case you didn't know, these programs are accessible to all students at Father Michael Goetz, and across our school board.

So, which of these programs is the choice pick for your? It depends. Word Q, a user-friendly and intuitive program, is the preferred software for word prediction. As you type, the program predicts the words that should come next, and helps with spelling. It can even read to you what you're typing. How's that for assistive technology?

If you're looking for a speech-to-text program, **Dragon**—the program that translates your voice into words on the screen—is a great choice. Wow! Got to love that!

Read & Write Desktop has ALL the above-mentioned capabilities. Plus, if you would like to listen to an audio version of an online short story, news report—or any other piece of text for that matter—it will be available to you without having to scan or save the document.

Then, there's **Smart Ideas 5** used for brainstorming or building ideas. This software helps you create graphic organizers like webs and outlines, which can be used as process work for a writing assignment. Or, you can create concept maps to display material for a presentation.

So, if you're wondering how to access these programs, click on  , click on All Programs, you will find Word Q. Follow the same steps, then go to TextHelp to find **Read & Write 11**. Follow the same steps, then go to Productivity to find **Smart Ideas 5**.

During your lunch, spare, or before or after school hours, you may visit the FMG Library Learning Commons to practice using these programs on computers that are available for your use.

If you have any questions about this software, we will try to answer them. We promote "learning for all" in our library and want to help you achieve success at school and beyond.

Kathy Wilkinson-McGuire, Special Education Consultant
leading a session on Read & Write 11 with
Ms. Mouchbahani, Ms. Anele, and FMG students.

