

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

1st Quarter, 2016 - 2017

Technology News at LRMS

With so many shifts at LRMS this summer, you may find that you need to print somewhere you're currently unable to. Feel free to stop by the Media Center and we'll be glad to install printers on your teacher laptop. Desktop computers require a bit more work, though.

Also note that the Instructional Tech office has moved. Mrs. Cronin and Mr. Martin swapped offices over the summer - but they're both still in the library!

Read WCPSS news below for information about the arrival of student Tech Bond devices. When that happens, all student devices will be called back in for a short period so we can re-allocate and distribute all the new equipment.

This fall the Media Center will be holding 2 special events. Skype Learning Day happens on September 14th (you should have received an email from Mr. Martin about this). Look for information to be released soon about "Star Wars Reading Day," to be held on October 14th.

Technology News from WCPSS

With digital learning playing a large chunk in the WCPSS Strategic Plan, there's lots of changes happening with tech at the district level.

The county now has a philosophy of moving towards online training tutorials instead of face-to-face trainings for specific tools. In other words - don't expect to hear about county-sponsored training sessions on Canvas, Google, or the like.

Mastery Connect continues to be rolled out for assessment - and teachers should find their rosters are already pre-loaded in this service. SchoolNet is indeed still available (especially for CTE) - but WCPSS is encouraging staff to use Mastery Connect instead, as you may experience large lag times with SchoolNet.

If you're an [Edmodo](#) user, it sounds like the county will be phasing that out soon - so you may want to start exploring other options.

The county will soon be launching "[VBrickRev](#)" to host and stream video content created by WCPSS students and staff. It's a much more controlled service than YouTube, so once this rolls out, WCPSS is hoping you will move away from posting to YouTube and instead use this VBrickRev service instead.

[Office 365](#) is coming - but no details are available yet.

WCPSS is also planning to pay for the [Vidyo](#) video conferencing system - but few details are available yet.

WCPSS is fully aware it's a nightmare to try to remember all your usernames and passwords. They're hoping to have a "single sign on" service in place by 2020 (think how you use your WakeID to sign in to several different tools).

The Intranet (www2) will soon be completely renovated.

You received information over the summer about the new [Reflector 2](#) software available for all teacher laptops. See Brian Martin for more information.

Likely some of the best news you've heard in a while - WCPSS is working now to change our email system from Lotus Notes to something else. No specifics are available about this yet.

Finally - this will be the year we receive our big benefit from the 2013 Technology Bond. A large influx of student laptops (they'll be silver) will be coming our way - likely around December. Most teachers will also receive a charging cart, too. Much more information about this will be coming your way in the near future.

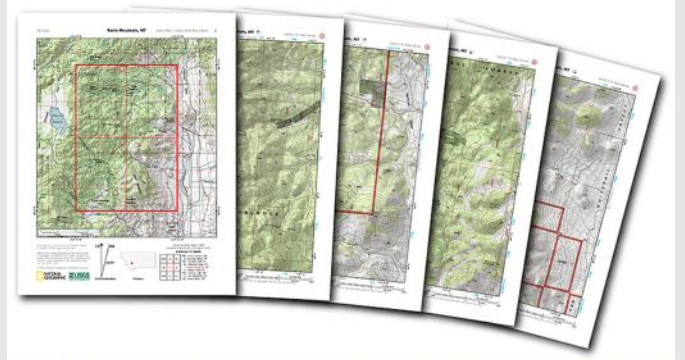
Map It With National Geographic

National Geographic has recently added a new digital resource for Social Studies teachers (and the rest of the world). You can now access every US Geological Survey (USGS) topographical map from across the United States into one spot. The maps include hill shading.

Maps are searchable and interactive. They can be saved (or printed) as PDFs. You can even print parts of maps across several pages, enabling you to tape pages together to create a really large map.

Give it a look and explore the world...

<http://www.natgeomaps.com/trail-maps/pdf-quads>



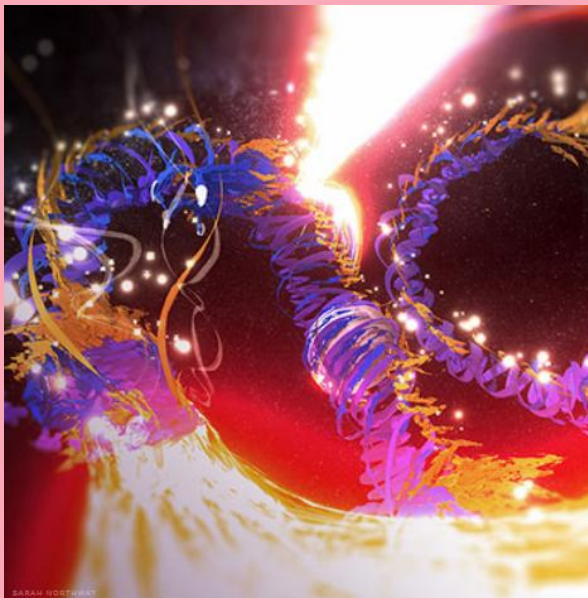
Sample maps

Emerging Tech Spotlight: VR Painting

Painting with your cell phone?! No paint, no canvas, no mess!

Google continues to expand the virtual reality realm with a new app called "Tilt Brush." Using a virtual reality headset (like Google Cardboard), users can paint with an endless batch of brushes and colors in 3-D space.

It's currently only available for HTC Vive devices - but you can bet it will be coming to other devices soon. See it in action at: <https://www.tiltbrush.com/>



FUN FACT

According to [The Fact Site](#), the average computer user blinks seven times a minute; the normal rate is twenty times per minute.



Favorites To Go!

As part of the WCPSS Google Apps For Education suite, staff (not students) have access to Google Bookmarks. This simple tool allows you to save favorite websites to your Google account. You can then pull up those bookmarks anywhere on any device. No more worries about your computer being wiped or not having your favorite websites with you.

Try it out at:

<http://www.google.com/bookmarks>





LEARNING DAY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

Start the year off with some fun digital distance learning! Sign up to bring your class to the LRHS auditorium to take part in one or more Skype Learning Day sessions. Skype connects our audience with a speaker at a remote location for a presentation and interactive Q&A.

8:15 - 9:00 Author John David Anderson

Anderson is the author of *Sidekicked*, *Minion*, *Standard Hero Behavior*, *The Dungeoneers* and the soon-to-be-released *Ms. Bixby's Last Day* and *Insert Coin to Continue*. He will discuss his life as an author, creativity with reading and writing, and more.

9:20 - 10:20 NC Natural Sciences Museum - Dirt is Alive!

Did you know the dirt in our schoolyard is alive? We sent in a sample of our campus dirt and our guest speaker will explain what's living in it and how organisms such as people depend on soils for survival.

10:30 - 11:30 Writing With Author Chris Tozier

Learn to write great sentences with author Chris Tozier author of the *Olivia Brophay* series of books.

1:30 - 2:00 Raptors!

A virtual field trip to the Northwest Trek Wildlife Park. We'll take your class behind the scenes with experienced educators and animal keepers to learn what makes a raptor different from all other birds. Discover what types of raptors live in the Pacific Northwest and meet several different species up close!

Sign your class up online at: <http://goo.gl/tFmtis>



**COMING OCTOBER 14th TO A
MEDIA CENTER NEAR YOU...**



**STAR
WARS
READS
DAY**

ROLL INTO READING!

Sign up and bring your class to the Media Center for this special day that promotes reading, literacy, and more! Students can explore stations that include...

- Display promoting an expanded selection of STAR WARS and other intergalactic books
- Virtual 3-D STAR WARS spaceships - or try your hand at designing your own!
- Photo Booth - take a picture with Princess Leia or costumed actors from LRHS!
- Activities including Mad Libs and Art
- Video Blast stations with featurettes about making the film, their literary elements, a music video from the LRMS band, and more!
- Star Wars prize pack contest
- Merchandising Museum - trace the history of the business side of STAR WARS from the 1970s through the present!
- student art gallery
- and more!

Sign up to bring your class at:

<http://goo.gl/r9hg79>

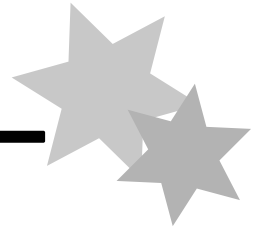


Students receive a vintage trading card on their way out! (while supplies last)



LRMS

TECH THURSDAYS



Short PD sessions to get you moving with technology.

Learn a little about using some cool technology tools in your classroom! These short, optional sessions will introduce you to some powerful learning tools. All you need to do is bring a charged device to the session(s), which will be held in the Media Center. Each session features 30 minutes of training and 15 minutes of application work time.

You can receive partial CEU credit for attending sessions. To receive credit, you'll need to submit an artifact to Brian Martin illustrating instructional use of one of the digital tools you learn about during Tech Thursdays. More information will be provided at the sessions.

All sessions will be held in the Media Center.	Electives 8:15 - 9:00	8th Grade 9:30 - 10:15	7th Grade 11:30 - 12:15	6th Grade 1:30 - 2:15
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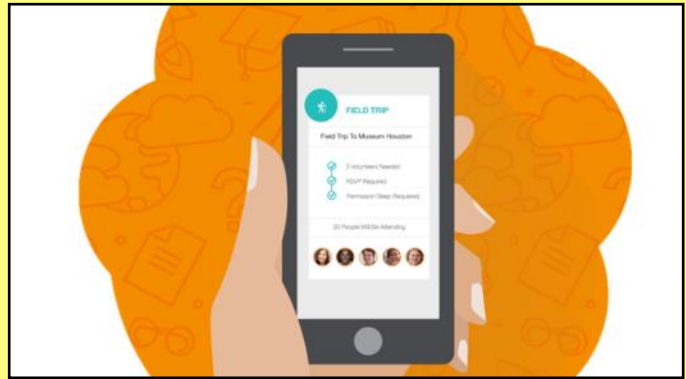
Date	Session
Sept. 22	Collaboration Tools Overview - bring your laptop Learn how students can collaborate together using services like Padlet, Today's Meet, Tricider, Lino).
Oct. 27	Video Production on iPad (multimedia) - bring school-owned iPad Learn how to record video and edit shots together using a single device.
Nov. 17	Google Cardboard Virtual Reality (content) - bring smart phone Explore the world in virtual reality. Note you'll need to provide your own Smart Phone for this session - and you may want to install some apps during this session. This will be a tool used with BYOD devices, not with school-owned devices.
Dec. 15	Socrative & Kahoot (formative assessment tools) - bring your laptop Get immediate response from your students using these audience polling tools designed for the classroom
Jan. 19	Google Forms (data collection) - bring laptop Gather information from visitors to your Google Form.
Feb. 16	3-D Printing & Sketchup - bring laptop Learn how to design objects that can be 3-D printed.
Mar. 16	Virtual Whiteboard Presentations (multimedia) - bring school-owned iPad Use an iPad as a whiteboard to record presentations.
Apr. 20	Digital Video Content & Tools (content) - bring laptop An overview of digital video content available to you.

Turn Parents Into Partners!

Class Tag

www.classtag.com

Class Tag permits you to share communications with parents. From scheduling conferences to reminders about field trips to sharing homework and assignment due dates. See if it helps you better work with parents to find student success!



Unplugged by Brian Martin

I'm often asked, "What's the best thing to use to create my teacher website?"

There's no right or wrong answer. Each service tends to bring something different to the table. The first step is to decide which type of web presence you want to have.



A website is a repository of content that can be found by just about anyone on the Internet. A teacher website might feature things like a biography, list of homework assignments, or a compilation of links for your students to follow. Usually you have to do most of the authoring side of things - deciding the layout of your site, choosing colors and clip art yourself. Google Sites, Weebly, and Wix are examples of services that let you create websites.

This differs from a Learning Management System (LMS). LMSs are designed to be a place on the Internet for teachers to offer online/cyber courses. Blackboard, Canvas, and Google Classroom are all examples of an LMS. While you often have control over the visual look of these systems, they often have a standard layout. They usually permit you to post content (including links to other resources and media-rich content), collaborate (through chat, discussion boards, or virtual whiteboards), and submit student work to the teacher (many allow you to grade or give feedback on the work).

Both of these things differ from social media spots. As the name implies, social media sites (such as Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram) are meant to keep others informed. These types of sites are ideal when you want to frequently release updated information - such as perhaps a running list of homework that's posted each day. Most of these are blocked on campus (with the exception of Twitter). Note WCPSS has very specific guidelines in place for how social media can and can't be used by educators in our system.

Whichever route you decide to take, try to make sure it's the right choice. You don't want to spend a ton of time developing a website only to later find you really were after a learning management system. Spending some time exploring the options can save you time in the longrun.

Remember, you can access lots of additional content and guides to technology online at:

<http://www.wcpss.net/lrmstech>

Contact our school Instructional Technology Facilitator, Brian Martin, or Media Specialist Lisa Nelson, if you're interested in collaborating on a lesson implementing technology.