

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

IN THIS ISSUE...

The Latest News!

YouTube Helps
With Universal Design!

Music Creation with
Incredibox!

Draw on Web Pages!

KEEPING PARENTS CONNECTED

Canvas Parent Access Enabled

Parents are now able to connect to their student's Canvas account by creating their own account in the Canvas Parent app and then having their child log-in with his/her Wake ID information on the parent's device in order to link the accounts.

Parents and teachers can visit <http://canvas.wcpss.net/canvasparent> for additional information and support.

To avoid confusion of any total grade differences between Canvas and PowerSchool, grade totals were hidden in Canvas for all PowerSchool courses beginning December 4, 2017. Grades for individual items, such as quizzes, discussions and assignments, will still be displayed in Canvas and in the Canvas Parent app.

If required, parent/guardian access can be blocked for a student. (For example, if custodial rights change for a student.) Contact the Media Center if you encounter the need for a parent access issue.

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW

There's a new set of 10 USB headphones available for checkout from the Media Center. They also feature microphones. Contact Mrs. Nelson to arrange for checkout. There's also now a portable rolling HDTV available for checkout. Thanks to our amazing PTSA for funding our school's technology purchases!

The district is continuing work on the WakeID Portal. WCPSS is working with state level technology folks to "marry" the NCEdCloud with the WakeID Portal, meaning students and staff will eventually be able to access the NCEdCloud through the WakeID Portal - cutting down on a lot of confusion.

Meanwhile, the district is about to update computers to Windows 10 (doesn't it feel like we just got Windows 7?!). That will take quite a while to re-image every computer in the school system. All new computers purchased after January 1st will come with Windows 10.

The district has also turned on the ability for parent Canvas access. This will allow parents access to certain things within the Canvas learning management system.

The district has made arrangements so that parents won't be able to access their student's grades within CANVAS (which of course isn't the gradebook system that you use - that information is available in PowerSchool).

Look for more information in the coming months about these initiatives.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Students can use 3 different user names when logging into the WakeID Portal (pictured below).

- Their WakeID (ex: jsmith)
- Their WCPSS email address (ex: jsmith@students.wcpss.net)
- Their student ID number (ex: 8573298)

TOOL SPOTLIGHT INCREDIBOX

Access It At:

<http://www.incredibox.com>

Incredibox is a web-based tool that permits the user to create very simple music.

While your students may not make Grammy-caliber recordings, it does have quite a helpful use in any classroom.

Students can craft songs that help share their learning.

For example, in the Social Studies classroom, students are learning about the Civil War. The teacher may break students into group and issue each group a laptop. Each group creates a song about an assigned element (for example, who was Robert E. Lee?). Students could then present their “mad beats” to the class, teaching others about

their topic, showing their mastery of learning, and utilizing technology, creativity, and collaboration!

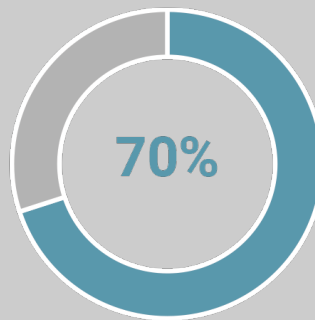


STAR WARS READING DAY RETURNS

A galaxy of reading exploded on December 7th when our Media Center hosted “Star Wars Reading Day 2017: The Last Page.” The event, which all 6th graders attended, spotlighted the force of reading - as well as several technology points, just in time for the release of THE LAST JEDI. We even had a costumed character appear - Jyn Erso from last year’s ROGUE ONE.



FAST FACT



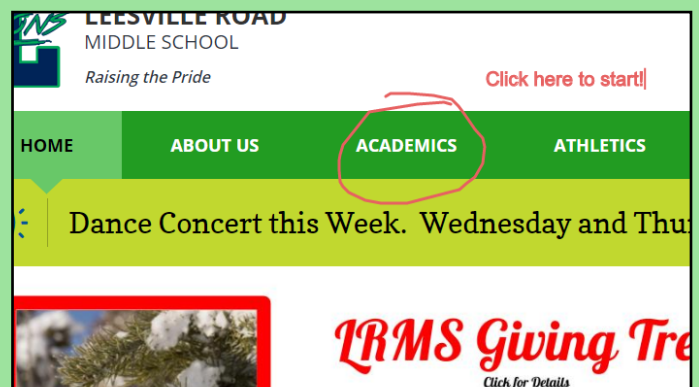
The percentage of teachers who feel that technology enriches the learning experience

Source: Edgenuity,
“Teachers’ Dream Classroom Survey”
May 2016

HELPFUL TEACHER APP

WEB PAINT is a useful extension for the Chrome Browser. It permits you to turn on a small tool box of drawing and text tools that you can use to “write” over any live web page. This can be useful for pointing out specific things on a website or to illustrate instructions for students as they begin an activity.

[Click here](#) to add this extension to your Chrome web browser.



YOUTUBE NOW OFFERS CAPTIONING ON EVERY VIDEO - EVEN THOSE YOU CREATE!

What's the second most used search engine on the web (Google being #1)? YouTube!

More than likely you pull up video content to share with your students almost every day. YouTube recently added a new feature that uses speech recognition to automatically generate captions for just about every video found on their site.

This applies even to videos created by our students (as well as ourselves!).

Captioning can be a big help in providing universal access to our learning materials and can have a big impact on just about every classroom...

- Provides text of audio for hearing impaired students.
- Can help in situations where there may be noisy distractions within the room while students are trying to listen to a video
- Subtitle captions can appear in dozens of languages - which can help our ESL students understand the content
- Multiple language options can provide an interesting twist in World Languages classrooms. Students could watch a video in English, mute the sound, and "read" the audio in the desired language

Do remember that voice recognition software doesn't always yield perfect results, but still may help you overcome communication barriers.

Access It At:


<http://www.youtube.com>



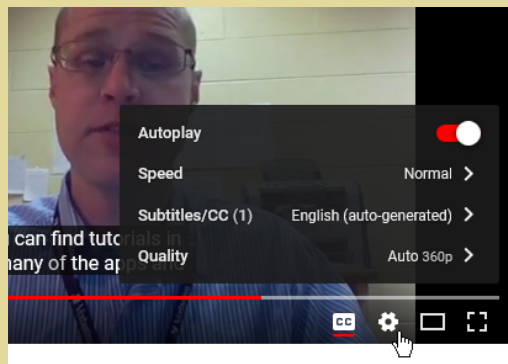
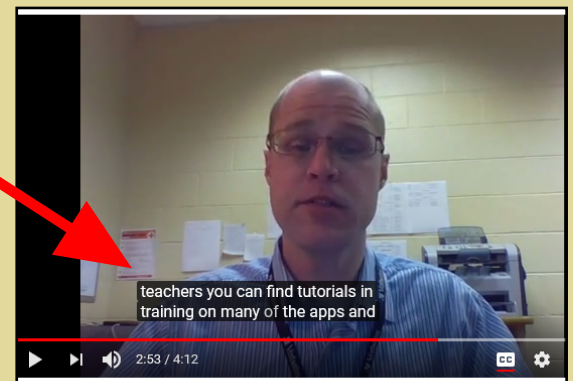
Setting Captions & Subtitles Tutorial

Find a video on YouTube.



Click the  button.

Your captions
will appear.
Click the CC
button again
to turn off.



Click the settings cog (⚙️) and select "Subtitles/CC" to alter the language the subtitles are presented in.



D.A.T.E.

Short PD sessions to get
you moving with technology.

UPCOMING SESSIONS

Electives	8th Grade	7th Grade	6th Grade
8:30 - 9:15	9:30 - 10:15	11:30 - 12:15	1:30 - 2:15

JAN. 18

WIZER

Forget lines at the copy machine. Create digital interactive worksheets that you can “pass out” to students in a variety of ways, including Google Classroom. Bring your teacher laptop.

FEB. 22

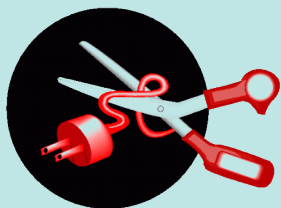
COLLABORATION TOOLS

Learn to ace one of the 4 Cs using one of several collaboration tools. Bring your teacher laptop.

MAR. 15

RECAP

Create a culture of inquiry! Post a question and let students respond in a variety of ways, including video. Bring your teacher laptop.



UNPLUGGED

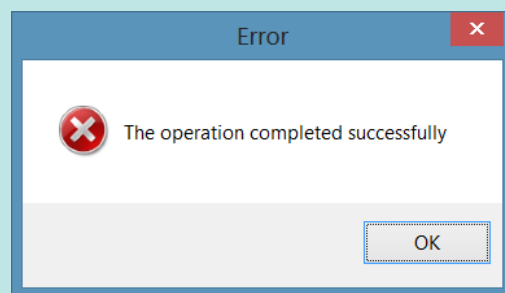
By Brian Martin

We all need tech support at some point. WCPSS, of course, does not provide a full time (or even part time) tech support position to any school. When something doesn't work, you contact the Media Center, we submit a help request ticket, and within a few days (sometimes even longer), a tech from Tech Services shows up to iron things out.

What are you supposed to do in the meantime? Often teachers need fixes right there on the spot the moment the issue arises - or a moment of learning may slip away for the student.

While we in the Media Center try to extinguish as many fires as we can as they happen, you might already have an even better option for tech support - your own students!

Ask your pupils who knows what about your tech. When the projector won't display your Powerpoint, a student in your room might be able to solve your problem right then and there, saving everyone time - and hopefully avoiding loss of instructional time.



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.