WCPSS Technology News

This spring, many teachers will hopefully receive a cart of laptops for classroom usage. By providing these, the district hopes you will use them for instructional purposes. While BYOD devices and other laptop carts can help you achieve a 1:1 ratio when needed, here are some ideas just about any teacher could use with 10 laptops in the classroom...

- Utilize in a learning station scenario - students or groups visit a laptop station - watch a video or complete an activity together.

- Use the laptops to help individualize instruction for challenging students. For example, an ESL student could watch a video (or read information) in the student's native language as you lecture the class in English.

- Permit student groups to create a multimedia project together on a laptop - such as a digital poster, audio recording, or video.

- Have students research a particular topic in small groups. Have students share their findings (text, images, video) by attaching their group's laptop to your projector.

- Utilize assessment tools like Socrative or Kahoot, dividing students up into teams to take part in the game.

- Create "shifts" for students to have time with a laptop for an activity. For example, one third of the class could be reading a paper article, one third of the class could be working on a written assignment, and one third of the class could be using a laptop for a tech activity. Rotate around so each student takes part in each of the 3 activities.

Where Are They?!?!

We've been waiting patiently since 2013 for our Technology Bond benefits to finally arrive.

Each high school in the district has already received their "CIP 3:1" laptops. Leesville Road High received 83 carts!

Middle schools are next on the list to receive them. Earlier announcements indicated a February/March arrival time. So, what's the holdup?!

The charging carts are the hiccup. They're made just for WCPSS internationally, and some form of shipping conflicts are preventing from the carts getting to the United States - and in turn, preventing us from getting our laptops!

Last Minute Update

Marlo Gaddis, head of Media & Technology for WCPSS, reports that middle schools should receive their laptops by the end of this year. Year-round schools will be receiving theirs first, so it's unlikely they'll arrive at LRMS in time for much impact this year.

Reminder - Laptop Carts Canvas Course

Remember, if you're been notified you'll be receiving laptops when they finally arrive, the district will require that you complete a Canvas PD course.

The course is currently available to you. Just login to Canvas through the WakeID portal. You'll see one of your classes listed as "3:1 Device Integration." Due date for the course completion hasn't been set yet - but will likely be late fall 2017.

Tons o' Tools!

Classtools.net contains a collection of useful, free tools for students and teachers. Turn a paper assessment into an arcade game of Pac-Man. There's a citation maker. Hexagons Generator helps turn lists into visual collections of shapes. Create a virtual 3-D gallery of images. Venn Diagram templates, puzzle creators, an image labeling tool - the list of helpful apps goes on and on.

The best part - no account creation is needed for these tools - for teachers or students! A great way to find creative technology to help students learn - and show what they have learned!

Access it:
http://www.classtools.net

Teacher Spotlight: Valerie Elliot

Sixth grade teacher Valerie Elliot seems to always be embracing new trends in classroom technology.

"It engages students," she says. "It is something they can connect with and relate to as it is a real part of their everyday lives. It is so convenient to be able to incorporate digital tools and links into both the learning and the instruction."

Ms. Elliot is a big fan of the Google Apps for Education suite. She houses her online classroom on Google. The sharing features are one of the big pluses for her. "I use Google Classroom because it allows me to provide many resources in a variety of forms. Google Docs allows me to receive items electronically, which is a huge time saver and creates less consumption of paper. I can comment directly on their document and can share it with students instantly so feedback is both genuine and immediate."

One of her recent Social Studies lessons, called "Egyptian Women in Power," combined modern day technology with old world Egypt.

"Using provided links and other online resources, students read about these women. Students had to choose one of them and create a digital presentation of the information. If they used Google Slides or Power Point they needed to have 4 to 5 slides that included both images and the information that they selectively chose about their Egyptian royalty."

Music & Sound Effects for Multimedia Projects

When students create videos, podcasts, or just about any presentation that requires background music, their first instinct is to grab something from their iTunes account. If the presentation is going to be shared with the public (posted to YouTube, a website, or other means of exhibition), copyrighted music (pretty much all pop music) can't be used. Here are several spots where you can find free music without copyright restrictions (called royalty free music)...

Internet Archive

Royalty Free Music

Musopen's Classical Music

Sound Bible

Ms. Elliot finds technology often helps achieve the 4Cs.

"This was a group collaborative project. Students could communicate what they thought and found to be important. They would be creative with finding and using images and their wording and paraphrasing." She also points out that critical thinking was involved, as students had to determine what facts and information to include in their work.

Ms. Elliot continues to seek out new ways students can show what they know through presentation technology.

In March, the district changed lots of things about the way we login to different applications we all use quite often. Here's a visual summary that might help give you a better overall picture of where to access what...

TECH LOGINS FOR STUDENTS

Login to School Computers

Username: Student ID Number
Password: Initial password is Student ID Number
Reset: Teachers can use Reset tool on Shared Drive

NCEd Cloud

PowerSchool for students & parents
SchoolNet
Class Registration

Username: Student ID Number
Initial Password: N/A Claim Account
Reset: Teacher of record can reset password, much like in WakeID Portal

WakeID Portal

WCPSS Student Email
Google Apps
Canvas
SAS Curriculum Pathways
Mastery Connect

Username: WakeID
Initial Password: Student ID Number
Reset: Any teacher can reset any student in WakeID Portal

TECH LOGINS FOR TEACHERS

Login to School Computers

Username: WakeID
Password: Initial password is "welcome"
Reset: Contact Media Specialist

NCEd Cloud

NCEES Evaluation System
SchoolNet
EVAAS

Username: NCUID (number on paystub)
Initial Password: N/A (Claim Account)
Reset: See Media Specialist or Data Manager

WakeID Portal

WCPSS Staff Email
Google Apps
Canvas
SAS Curriculum Pathways
Easi
Mastery Connect

Username: WakeID
Initial Password: N/A (Claim Account)
Reset: See Media Specialist

Tech Tuesdays: There's Still Time to Learn!

The last Tech Thursday PD of the year happens **April 20th**. Bring your teacher laptop to the Media Center during your planning period and let's learn!

Digital Video Content & Tools (content) - bring laptop

An overview of digital video content available to you.

VIDEO CONTENT & TOOLS!

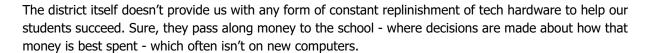| All sessions will be held in the Media Center.	Electives 8:30 - 9:15	8th Grade 9:30 - 10:15	7th Grade 11:30 - 12:15	6th Grade 1:30 - 2:15

Unplugged   by Brian Martin

I taught in a WCPSS classroom for 15 years before moving into my ITF role. I received some tasty home-baked cookies once in a while from my students. The PTSA provided treats or a t-shirt on occasion. The school itself even gave staff members a beautiful glass holiday ornament one year. These gifts certainly made me smile and feel appreciated. Did they truly have any effect on how I helped my students succeed? Not really.

The district itself doesn't provide us with any form of constant replinishment of tech hardware to help our students succeed. Sure, they pass along money to the school - where decisions are made about how that money is best spent - which often isn't on new computers.

That's all changed now that the 2013 Technology Bond has finally provided us with a giant influx of student laptops. It's not everyday that a teacher receives 10 laptops (at around $500 each), plus a custom-made charging cart. It's probably the most impressive "gift" I've ever seen WCPSS provide to teachers' classrooms. While not every teacher received this - a large percentage of teachers across the county did.

Ettiquite, of course, requires saying "thank you" for gifts. While there's no one person to write a thank you note to - there are ways to show your appreciation through actions, not words....

1. Take care of the devices and the cart! There is no plan in place for replacement, so these tools must last us for the forseeable future.

2. Use them! What a waste of taxpayer money if these laptops simply sit in a cart collecting dust.

3. Take learning the the next level! Sure students can type up essays or find an online article to read. But, try using the devices for more than that. Create video or podcasts. Video conference with a remote instructor. Take a virtual field trip. Create items in 3-D. Find interactive resources rather than passive ones.

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.