TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Technology News from WCPSS

Amazing how many things can change over the course of one summer! The new "NC Ed Cloud" login now lets you access PowerSchool and the new learning management system "Canvas." Student Google Apps accounts have been created and by the time you read this, should be ready for students to use. The tried-and-true learning management system "Blackboard" will be going away at the end of this school year - and WCPSS may possibly cancel its subscription to Edmodo at the end of this year, too.

On the hardware side of things, each teacher in the county has now received a new laptop. The vision WCPSS has for us is that each teacher has 1 mobile laptop - and that's it. At LRMS we'll keep your teacher desktop in place as long as it can stay "alive."

We still have 2 more benefits to receive from the 2013 Technology Bond - student devices and a charging cart. The county wants to offer up a new bond for voters to decide on in 2016 - but the money from the 2013 bond has to be spent first. So, we remain hopeful that the new student devices will be arriving this spring.

Technology News at LRMS

New teacher laptops have now been distributed. If you find that having a specific room's printer installed on your laptop would be a benefit - just see Mr. Martin or Mrs. Nelson anytime.

Last year's PTSA donation funded several new projectors - which feature a new technology. These new projectors permit wireless projection of up to 4 devices at once - laptops, iPads, Smart phones - it does it all! Several teachers are "piloting" this new projector. If all goes well, we hope to continue to spread wireless projectors throughout the building. The collaboration possibilities are endless!

COMING SOON: BYOD!

BYOD is coming! November 9th is the date we've targeted to flip the switch and permit student-owned devices to be used at LRMS. You'll be hearing much more about this in the coming weeks - but know that ultimately, it should be a very good thing for our school.

Windows 7 — Here it comes!

WCPSS Tech Services will be converting all of our campus computers (desktops and laptops) from Windows XP to Windows 7 at some point in November. Some devices on campus already have Windows 7.

While we know very little about what to expect, here are some bullet points...

- Computers will not be able to be used the day (or perhaps 2 days) that it takes to reimage our entire school.

- Media staff may (or may not) have to re-setup ALL printers in school. If we have to - it will likely take several weeks.

- some older desktop computers will have to be pulled out of classrooms. There are about 40 on campus that we will have to send to the tech graveyard.

- In the end, this transition will be a good thing - Windows XP is very old and no longer supported by Microsoft. All computers on campus will have the same operating system.

You'll receive more information about this via email as we find out more details.

Lesson Idea: Talk Show

One of the great things about both laptops and iPads is that they have built-in cameras that can take photos and video. How about having students create a mock talk show (or ever better - a game show) to help them learn about particular people or characters you're studying?

Divide students into groups of 3 or 4. One student can run the tech side of things - using the laptop and/or iPad to record video. One student can dress up nicely and play the role of the show host. The other student(s) can dress up as the figure. Ffor example - in a study of the Civil War, General Robert E. Lee could appear as a guest on the show.

The host can ask questions of the guest(s). The ideal time limit on the project would be around 5 minutes.

Once students have made these videos, have them share-out with the class. Make it a special day for presentations - offer up popcorn or use red bulletin board paper to create a "red carpet."

How about integrating guests with conflict? For example - how about Hillary Clinton vs. Donald Trump? Guests could easily be fictional characters, too - how about Daisy and Gatsby?

This project helps re-inforce ideas studied in class, integrates technology, has students creating a digital artifact, and enables collaboration. Plus - it's just plain fun!

This could also be done using just sound to create a "podcast."

Google for Students

We've waited a long time (over 2 years!) - but they're finally here. You should have received information via email. Students have access to a variety of Google Apps - but there are some that are not available with their WCPSS student Google Apps account. These include…

Google Hangouts
Google Bookmarks
Google Books
Google MapMaker
Google News
Google+
Google Photos
Google Translate (can still be used
                without a login)
Google Voice
YouTube

What, no YouTube?! Students can still view videos on YouTube - they just can't upload videos to YouTube.

If you want students to be able to share a video with you, they will need to upload it to their Google Drive, and choose to share the video with you.

One other Google best practice to know - Staff documents shared with "Anyone in WCPSS" are accessible to students.

FUN FACT

According to the Digital School Districts Survey conducted by the Center for Digital Education and National School Boards Association, the percentage of BYOD schools increased from 22 to 56 percent in 2014.
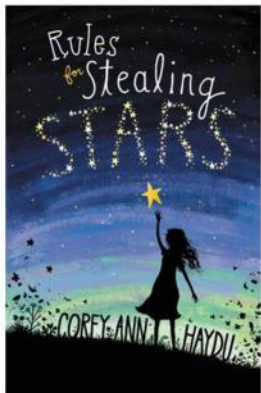
Learn more here.

TECH THURSDAYS

Short sessions to get you moving with technology.

This year's sessions have already started! Join us for topics that interest you!

Date	Session
Oct. 8	**Gradecam** Create your own scantron-type assessments (up to 10 questions) - and your laptop camera does the scoring!
Nov. 12	**Voicethread** A multi-media enhanced message board type service, great for collaboration!
Dec. 10	**Elements 4D iPad app** Just for science! Virtually see how chemical reactions happen!

Media Center News

Corey Ann Haydu

Visiting LRMS 6th Grade on October 6th!
Click to learn more.

We have gotten off to a great start this year! Here is a summary of what has happened and what is yet to come.

Done:

- ☐ Orientation of 1200+Students
- ☐ Pathdriver testing of 1200+students thanks to Ms. Haymore & Healthful Living Teachers
- ☐ 69 teacher laptops processed and ready to go out – most of them picked up -thanks to Mr. Martin and Ms. Chamberlain
- ☐ New Assistant fitting right in – welcome Ms. Roberts
- ☐ Student email, claiming clouds, student Google drive, Moby Max testing – can your students remember all their passwords ? ☺

Upcoming:

- ☐ Author Visit for 6th Grade October 6th
- ☐ Coding Club starting –thanks Ms. Sinor & Ms. Sterling
- ☐ Book Fair November 10 – 18
- ☐ "Interactive displays" being added around the MC – estimation jar, future plans, more to come!

LRMS Media Center

First Quarter News

Orientation Powtoon & Kahoot

Circulation 2700 books YTD

Pathdriver Ist round done!

WANT TO SCHEDULE THE MEDIA CENTER OR COMPUTER LAB?

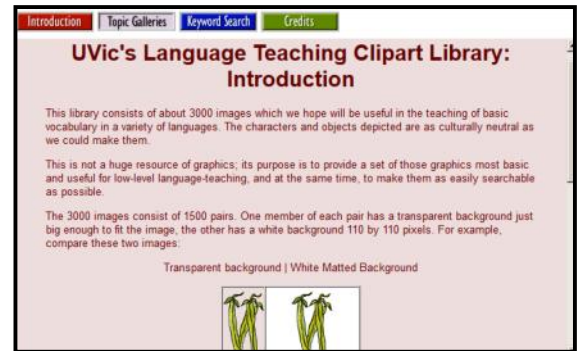http://www.wcpss.net/domain/819

View the schedule

Helpful Links For Your Classroom

UVic's Teaching Clip Art

http://hcmc.uvic.ca/clipart/

Need a great spot to find some legal clip art to use in your digital documents, bulletin boards, or student projects? Search over 3,000 images, all available for use by teachers and students alike!

Unplugged   by Brian Martin

Many of you have heard my gripes about house-hunting over the summer. Thankfully I'm finally under contract for a beautiful property out by Falls Lake. After touring over 20 properties, I'll be happy to never look at another real estate listing ever again.

I purchased my last house in 2007. As I've gone through the process over the last year, I've found myself thinking about how technology has changed the process of buying a house. I no longer rely on classified ads or real estate flyers. I don't drive through neighborhoods, hoping I might stumble across a "For Sale" sign. Instead, I have a handy search engine that automatically emails me the moment new listings pop up - as well as when properties go under contract. I text my realtor frequently - permitting me to receive information back from her whether she's on the road, in a meeting, or by the pool.

While touring a house, I'd often have questions pop into my head. The realtor was instantly able to answer many of the questions, thanks to her handy mobile device. How much would it cost to dig up and remove an old gas tank buried in the back yard? What company handles the neighborhood garbage collection? Will HOA covenants permit a fence? All of these things were answered in minutes.

I've been able to record video walk-throughs as I toured the property. I immediately review the footage when I get home - helping me decide if I like or don't like the house. It's been immensely helpful - it's hard to remember all the details of a house - especially after I've walked through so many of them.

It's amazing how many ways technology has helped me in this complex process - from deciding on an offer to signing off on a contract digitally. This is where technology can really shine - enabling me to do things that just wouldn't be possible (or would take much, much longer) if the technology didn't exist. This is where tech shines in the classroom, too. What are you doing with tech tools that wouldn't even be possible if the technology didn't exist? How do students use tech to accomplish things that weren't even possible just a few years ago?

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.