



TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

2nd Quarter, 2014 - 2015

Helping Bridge the Digital Divide

Many of our students are lucky enough to have multiple digital devices at home (computers, smartphones, tablets, etc). On the other hand, many don't.



There are some possibilities for children without Internet access at home.

1. The Public Library

All Wake County public libraries offer patrons free Internet service. Luckily there is a public library right beside our school!

2. Public Hotspots

Coffeeshops, bookstores, even Bojangles offers free Wi-Fi connectivity. This, of course, means the student would need to provide his/her own device - but access to the Internet is free.

3. Charities

There are several charitable organizations that help families get digital devices in students' hands. Note that for most of these organizations, a teacher/school has to instigate the application.

- **Kramden Institute**
Based in Durham, a teacher can nominate a motivated student to apply for a home computer. Find out more details (or refer students interested) at:
<http://kramden.org/programs/>
- **Computers With Causes**
A non-profit organization that may be of help in putting a computer in the hands of a student at home.
<http://kramden.org/programs/>
- **The United Way**
Their "Teaming for Technology" program can help get low-income students a computer.
<http://www.unitedwaytriangle.org/t4t/request-computers/eligibility>

Technology News from WCPSS

Google student accounts are still in limbo! The holdup is our county's current Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). The Superintendent himself is having the WCPSS AUP altered. Currently, it's an "opt-out" situation - but soon, it will become "opt in." That means parents will have to sign off that their child can use a computer (and in turn, online services commonly used in schools). Once that is put into place, student Google Apps accounts will be released.

Do note that if a parent does not sign off for their child, the student will NOT be able to even login to a computer (or use an iPad). What will a teacher do if 30% of the class hasn't completed an AUP? How will these students be able to take online standardized tests? There is no answer for these questions yet.

Technology News at LRMS

Thanks to an amazing parent donation, LRMS will soon have around 16 more student iPads on the way! We also hear this year's fundraiser is going very well and will provide more technology access for students.

In addition, we'll soon be hearing about how our school will benefit from the recent Technology Bond. Know that the coming months will be a very exciting time for technology in our school (actually, every school in the county). It will likely be the biggest step forward in technology for Wake County Schools EVER.

Between the Bond benefits, parent donations, and the school fundraiser - our school will soon transform itself into a true 21st Century institution.

Finally, our Media Center has started a series of student after school workshops to help students explore technology tools they can use in their schoolwork.

Tool Spotlight: Sharing Culture with Culturegrams!

Culturegrams is a website that functions much like a constantly updated encyclopedia of information about countries and cultures around the world.

You'll find interviews with people who live in different places. A wealth of photos and video clips can help support you as you discuss the wide variety of people in our world.



You'll also find tons of factual information. Find out statistics about population, gender inequality, or life expectancy. Hear a country's national anthem. Find recipes from around the globe. Some information offers a "read aloud" option to help with differentiation. View information as graphs or tables.

You can access the service online at:
<http://online.culturegrams.com>

No password is needed online, but if you access it from home, use "wake" as both your username and password.

Culturegrams



A sample of fun facts from the site...

- Dorothy's house from **The Wizard of Oz** is on display in Liberal, Kansas.
- In Chad, Africa, Chadians announce their arrival at a home by clapping or announcing their presence outside someone's gate or front door.
- Australia is the world's driest permanently inhabited continent.
- Peru's average work week is slightly more than 48 hours, one of the longest in the world.

(Not-so-) FUN FACT

A recent report from the Pew Research Center found that nearly 75% of U.S. adults who use the Internet have witnessed online harassment. Forty percent have experienced it themselves.



Read more at <http://www.wral.com/survey-harassment-a-common-part-of-online-life/14103680/#FU1QYCEHr0uIjqHR.99>

TECH THURSDAYS

Short sessions to get you moving with technology.

Coming up soon...

Learn a little about using some cool technology tools in your classroom! These short, optional 30 minute 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. Partial CEU (or full, for attending all sessions) is available!

No session registration needed. Simply show up for the session(s) that interest you!

See Brian Martin in the Media Center for more info.

All sessions will be held in the Media Center.

ELECTIVES
8:30 - 9:00

8th
9:30 - 10:00

7th
12:00 - 12:30

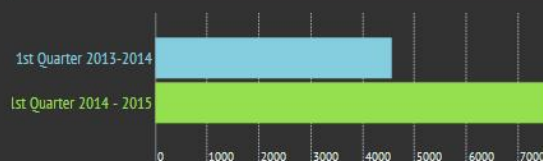
6th
1:45 - 2:15

Date	Session
Nov. 6	Sketchup for 3D Printing (Computer) Learn the basics of designing a 3-D object that could be printed on our school's 3-D printer.
Nov. 20	Prezi (Computer) Learn to make interesting alternatives to plain PowerPoints.
Dec. 4	Video Production Techniques (iPad) Learn to shoot better looking video with this intro to shooting pro video.
Dec. 18	Video Editing with VideoShop (iPad) Learn to piece together footage to create polished video presentations.

Media Center News by Lisa Nelson

This month we're presenting library news as an info-graphic! You can make your own using the free service at... <https://infogr.am>

MEDIA CENTER CIRCULATION



a 64% increase over last year!

957

Number of students that visited the Media Center using a pass.

1230+

Number of students Pathdriver Tested (Thanks Ms. Haymore)

1230+

Number of students Pathdriver Tested (Thanks Ms. Haymore)

1230+

Number of Students Star Tested (Thanks LA Teachers).

285

New books added to collection this year.

328

Non-fiction titles weeded (trust me they needed to go).

2

NCYA Book Club Meetings

COMING SOON: BOOK FAIR
NOV. 12 - 18

Helpful Links For Your Classroom

Remind 101

<http://www.remind101.com>

A great tool that lets you send mass text messages (such as to your students or parents), without using your own cell phone. Send the class a reminder about an upcoming assignment, change to an athletic schedule, or any message you want.



Unplugged by Brian Martin

I've had a sneak-preview of how our school is going to benefit from the recent Technology Bond. While little has been said as to how exactly it's going to improve our wireless Internet (that's supposed to be a priority for the county with the bond money), I do know that each school in the county is supposed to receive a giant amount of student devices to use in classrooms (can't give details just yet - but know that it will be REALLY good news if it plays out as I've heard).

Which brings me to the point that you, the classroom teacher, will soon have to also wear the hat of technology manager for your own classroom. However many devices you end up with, you'll have to be sure that devices are charged when you need them; that they are accounted for after each class period; and of course find ways to integrate them into the lessons you teach. It's not like you had anything else you had to do, right?



I'm saying this now because it's time for you to start thinking about what your classroom will look like once this happens. What procedures will you use to issue devices each period (and take them back)? What happens when a device goes down and requires repair (which could take weeks)? Will you be able to remember to charge the devices each day before you leave?

It's time to start thinking now - because we could be receiving Bond benefits as early as January.

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

<http://www.brianmartinraleigh.com>

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