



TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

2nd Quarter, 2015 - 2016

Technology News from WCPSS

Not too much to report for the moment! After the onslaught of changes with PowerSchool, Windows 7, and Canvas - we're kind of thankful for that!

Do note that the Blackboard learning management system is set to disappear at the end of this school year. Now is the time to begin transitioning educational content you have on Blackboard over to the new system - Canvas.

Technology News at LRMS

The PTSA is yet again funding many technology purchases for this school year. We're lucky to have such amazing parent support!

Thanks to a friend working over at LRES and SAS Institute, we received a batch of powerful desktop computers to help replace ones that were removed from classrooms in the last few months. Donations like these are important, as WCPSS no longer permits us to purchase desktop computers for classroom/lab use.

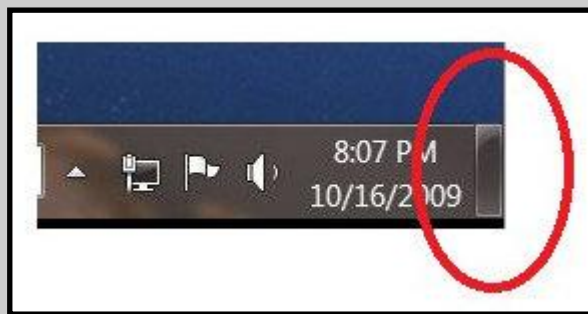
We hope you enjoyed "Window-less Wednesday" in November! Our entire school has now been upgraded to the Windows 7 operating system. If you still use a computer that has Windows XP on it - know that we'll likely have to retire that device soon, due to district policies.

Windows® 7 Tips & Tricks

Seven helpful things you might not know about while working in Windows 7...

1. At first glance the Windows 7 calculator looks just like Vista's version, but explore the "Mode" menu and you'll see powerful new Statistics and Programmer views.
2. Turn your photos into a slide-show screen-saver. Right-click an empty part of the desktop, select Personalize > Desktop Background, then hold down CTRL as you click on the images you like.
3. Want text to be Click Start, type "DPIScaling" and press Enter, select the size increase you need - 125% or 150% - then click Apply and restart to see the results.
4. Create on-screen sticky notes for quick reminders. Click the "Start" orb at the bottom left of your screen and type "sticky" - then launch the "Sticky Notes" program.
5. Windows 7 taskbar buttons are now movable - feel free to drag, drop and otherwise reorganize them to suit your needs.

6. Windows 7, lets you bring up the desktop without taking your hand off your mouse or pointing device— but it's not obvious how until you stumble upon it. In the extreme lower right portion of the screen, at the far-right edge of the taskbar, you'll see a little vertical rectangle with a "glossy" finish. Click it, and instantly all windows are minimized.



7. Windows has a built-in "read aloud" tool that will read whatever text is on screen. Click the "Start" orb at the bottom left, and type "narrator" - then launch the program that comes up.

New Technology Spotlight: Google Cardboard

Virtual reality using a cardboard box and a cell phone!



A new form of technology that's gaining traction is called "Google Cardboard." It permits users to purchase (or make) a box that fits over the viewer's eyes, like goggles, and insert a Smart phone into it. Loading specific content designed for this apparatus enables for full interactive virtual reality experiences.

Currently, this technology is being used mainly by the marketing industry - but available content grows daily. The low-cost cardboard goggles can often be purchased for under \$5! Imagine taking your entire class on a virtual field trip to Rome or exploring coral reefs without getting wet!

Where Are We Going?!

A recent NMC (News Media Consortium) report focused on where educational technology is going in the future. The [NMC Horizon K-12 report](#) suggests the following technologies will be seeping into institutions world-wide. It's nice to know we at LRMS a little ahead of the curve with some of these!

Near-Term (1 Year or Less)

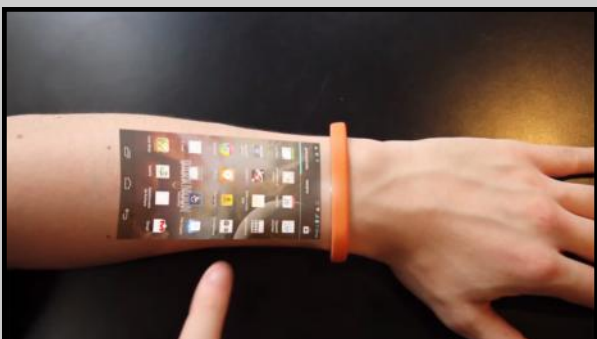
- Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)
- Makerspace

Mid-Term (2 to 3 Years)

- 3-D Printing
- Adaptive Learning Technologies

Far-Term (4 to 5 Years)

- Digital Badges
- Wearable Technology



This bracelet projects a touchscreen onto the human arm.

FUN FACT

More than 50 million students and teachers are using Google Apps for Education around the globe. Are you one of them?

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
Jan. 7	Canvas Introduction Learn how to access this new learning management system and how to setup a class.
Feb. 18	netTrekker Educational content for all disciplines! Videos and powerful read-aloud tools!
Mar. 17	Video Production on iPad Learn the basics of shooting video, trimming scenes, and exporting to get your work seen!

Media Center News



LRMS Media Center Strategic Plan



Collaboration
The Media Center is here for you! Let us know how we can help.



Creativity
Coding Club/Hour of Code
Technology & Presentation
Tools = Students expressing what they know.



Communication
Twitter
Website
Showcase for Prospective Students



Critical Thinking
INSTRUCTION IN:
Information Literacy
Paraphrasing
Citing Sources



Connecting
Continued focus on purchasing materials that reflect the diversity of our students to make connections.



Community
End the year strong!
WCPL Library Visit Planned.
Summer Reading Initiative

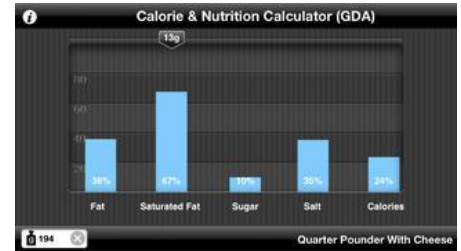
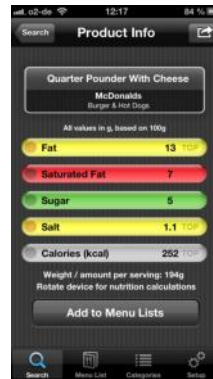
The WCPSS Strategic Plan for Balanced Assessment:
To develop and implement a balanced assessment system that accurately reflects students' knowledge of core curriculum standards as well as the ability to collaborate, be creative, communicate and think critically.

Helpful Links For Your Classroom

Have a Healthy Holiday!

<http://appcrawlr.com/ios-apps/best-apps-restaurant-nutrition>

It's the time of year for New Years Resolutions! If one of your goals is to eat healthier (or you want to show your students how to), try one of the many apps available that break down restaurant nutrition facts. The link above highlights several of the most popular apps.



Unplugged by Brian Martin

If you haven't heard the news yet - I'll soon be transferred and my job will be split between Leesville Road Middle and Leesville Road High. I'm excited about this move for a variety of reasons!

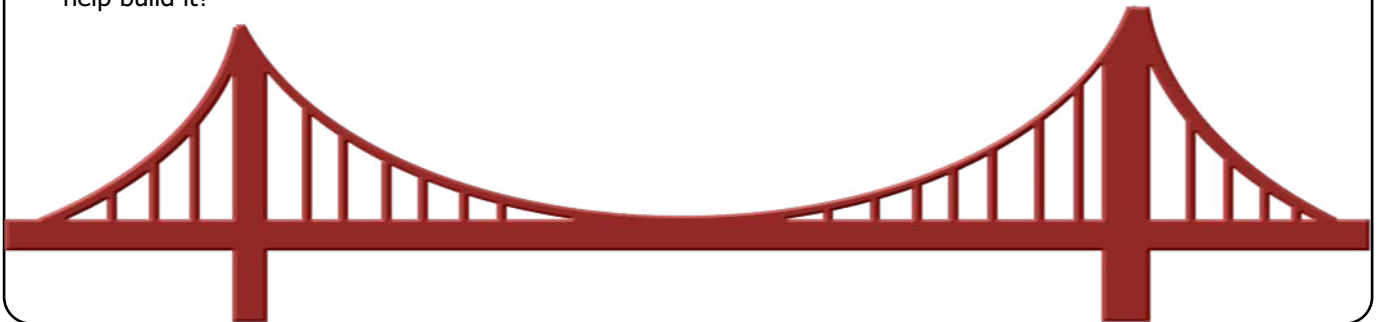


First and foremost - I'll be "within reach" most days. Even if I'm working a day at the high school, I'll be able to help extinguish tech fires at LRMS since I'll be right next door. I'll hopefully also be able to provide the same service to the high school.

One of the most exciting aspects of this job change, though, comes from the simple fact that all three Leesville campuses are connected. Working with technology staff at the elementary school, the hope is to build a strong tech program that spans K through 12. We hope to get teachers at all 3 schools using common sets of digital tools. Imagine students coming into LRMS already aware what their WCPSS email address is, how to access and share documents via Google, and already know how to get into a class that's on the new Canvas learning management system.

Once we send them on to high school, students will already know how to take part in a "Kahoot," or how to use a scientific calculator app, or how to create a podcast for a class project. Less time lost on instructing how to use a tool equates a gain in instructional time for you!

Expect to hear more about this "digital bridge" we're trying to craft in the coming months and years. Want to help build it?



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.