



TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

3rd Quarter, 2013 - 2014

Welcome

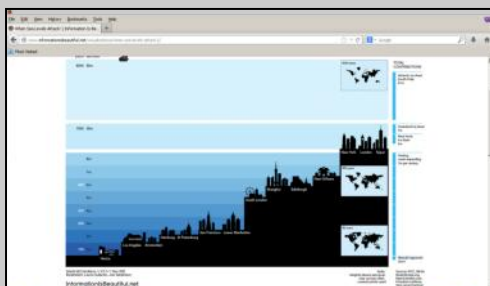
In an effort to get our staff up-to-date about the state of our school's technology, our Media Center will be sending out quarterly update newsletters. You'll find current information, a look at fun instructional tools, and ideas on how to integrate technology into your teaching.

Web Resources For Instruction

Information is Beautiful

<http://www.informationisbeautiful.net/>

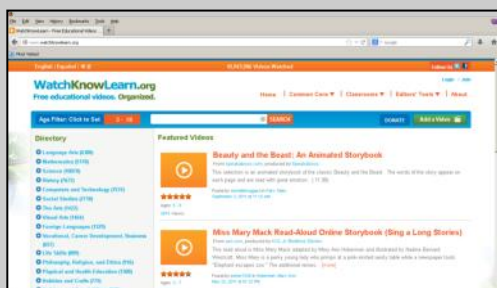
Combining data with art - this website seeks to provide interesting visualizations about real-world topics.



Watch Know Learn

<http://www.watchknowlearn.org/>

Yet another instructional video resource! If you can't find what you're looking for on NBC Learn or Discovery Ed, try this one! It's free!



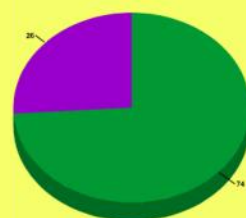
Updates from the County



- The recent Blackboard update includes a new feature called "Retention Center" that can provide lots of quick data if you use the system for student assessments and/or grading.
- WCPSS is starting to explore plans for students to "bring their own device."
- NBC Learn is a resource provided to secondary schools as a 2 year gift.
- The recently-passed bond is designed to strengthen technology infrastructure firstly, and secondly to help provide more digital devices to schools.
- The board recently approved the first digital textbook for our county - 8th grade science.
- Google Chromebooks are being piloted at a few schools this spring; WCPSS hopes to provide support for them soon.

FUN FACT!

According to a recent [PBS study](#), 74% of teachers say that educational technology is a student motivator!



How about some claps for Google Apps?!

Google's great for finding fast search results. But, WCPSS has given each staff member access to several cool Google account applications that can help you a great deal in the classroom!

As featured on the Tech Services website, Google apps can:

- Create documents, spreadsheets, websites, etc. with no Microsoft Tools installed
- Share documents, calendars, sites, etc with others
- Multiple people can simultaneously edit documents
- Files available anywhere there is Internet connection
- Office files available across multiple platforms (Mac, Windows, iPad, Mobile/Smart Phone)
- Create surveys via Google Forms
- Create custom and shared calendars
- Take note Google G-mail is not available through WCPSS.



You can access training information online at:
<https://sites.google.com/a/wcpss.net/googleapps-wcpss/training>

Google also features some lesson plan ideas that utilize these apps. Have a look!
<http://www.google.com/enterprise/apps/education/resources/lesson-plans.html>



WCPSS hopes to have student Google app accounts running by the end of this year

WATCH OUT!

It is **IMPERATIVE** that all employees understand that sharing with the school system means sharing with students! Assessments and other instructional materials that must remain secure should be marked "Private" and shared manually between educators.

NO CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION is **ALLOWED** in the **CLOUD** (the way Google saves documents)!

QUICK LESSON IDEA!

Use Google Drive to create the **START** of a presentation on a topic studied in class. Divide students up into groups and have the student groups finish each slide, filled with information and media (pictures, sounds, video clips?)

Once each group has completed their responsibilities, share the completed presentation with the entire class. Have students reflect on what made certain slides more effective than others.



Access Google apps available to you at:
<http://google.wcpss.net/>

QUICK & EASY WAYS TO INTEGRATE TECHNOLOGY



10 WAYS TO UTILIZE A SINGLE COMPUTER IN THE CLASSROOM



1. Google Docs / Drive is a great way to integrate technology as a classroom management tool. Google Docs is a great way to store, assess, and create organizational tools for classroom management.

2. Use the computer as a presentation tool. PowerPoint, Keynote, or Prezi let you create presentations to use in your classroom to engage students. If you have a single iPad, talk with Mr. Martin about how to have it appear projected on a

screen.

3. Learning Stations or Learning Centers – Create one center that students can use together in order to accomplish particular tasks or assignments. For example, use a single learning station for some project-based learning assignments or group work.

4. Guest Speakers – Invite speakers to talk to your class via Skype. Utilize resources to video-chat with students or experts from around the world.

5. If you have an ActivBoard, integrate flipcharts as a presentation tool and have students come to the board and work out problems. Also, ActivExpressions/ActiVotes are great tools to use to engage students in presentations and assessments.

7. Utilize educational videos from YouTube, TeacherTube, SchoolTube, Discovery Ed etc. as lesson starters, reviews, or summaries.

8. Use your mobile device for students to use in groups. (This can only be done if you have exceptional classroom management). Activities such as podcasts and videos are great ideas for this.

9. Create lessons using QR Codes where students use their cell phones to scan the code. They can then research where to look using the single computer. Digital field trips ahoy!

10. Allow a student to post a daily blog on the class website summarizing the daily events in class, including homework. Keeps parents in-the-know, helps absent students with makeup work, and takes the work off your shoulders.

11. Use the computer and projector for large group reading assignments, evaluating, and analyzing student work.

Adapted from Felicia Young, Edudemic, December 2012

<http://www.edudemic.com/10-ways-to-integrate-technology-using-a-single-computer/>

Easy Ways to Use Technology in Your Classroom, Even for Technophobic Teachers

Adapted from Kim Haynes, Teacherhub.com

PowerPoint "Game Show Review"

Many tech-savvy teachers have used Microsoft PowerPoint to create review games based on famous game shows, including "Jeopardy," "The Weakest Link," and "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" These templates are available online for teachers to download and revise.

Have students complete a written classroom activity as if it was online

Ever have your students write a diary from the perspective of a character or famous person? Why not have them create a blog instead? Take a look at various blog sites (Blogger and WordPress are two of the most popular) and create a template for your students to fill in. Want students to summarize information? Ask them to tweet the lesson – that is, have them write summaries of 140 characters or less, as if they were writing on Twitter.

Try a Webquest

A webquest guides students to search the Internet for specific information. For example, students are asked to serve as curators of a museum on a particular topic. They must search the Internet to determine what artifacts belong in their museum and explain their choices. Search for "webquests" and find plenty already pre-made!

Create a class webpage

A class webpage can be anything from a basic site where you post announcements (think "online bulletin board") to a much more elaborate one that includes class photos, a class blog, downloadable materials, and more. See Mr. Martin to find out how to find free webspace.

Give multimedia presentations

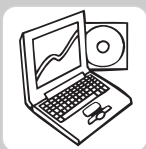
Use Powerpoint or Prezi to create an interactive presentation that integrates audio, video, and/or interactivity. Or better, have students create the interactive presentation.

Supplement your lessons

When you've taught the same material for awhile, you – and your students – may find it less-than-exciting. A quick Internet search may help you identify ways to supplement your lessons with interesting new material. Make a habit of searching before you begin each new unit. You may find photographs, sound clips, video clips, and more that can bring your lessons to life. Many museums now offer online "virtual tours" and teachers are constantly developing new presentations and webquests, which are posted online. Add these in to keep your lessons fresh.

Listen to - or create - a Podcast

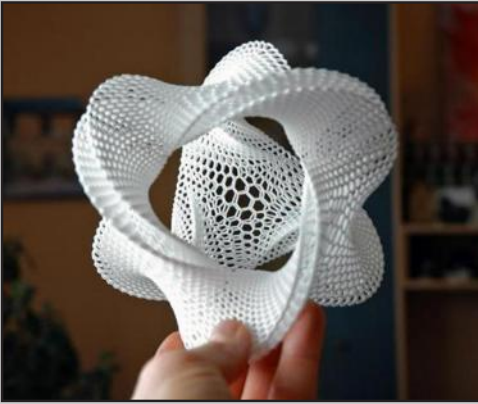
There are thousands of podcasts available on the Web. Search for ones that meet your students' needs. Some colleges are offering professors' lectures via podcast, which can be great for advanced students. In other cases, you may be able to find an interview with the author of a book your students are reading, or other supplemental material. Make arrangements to download it and play it for your students. For the really ambitious, have students create their own podcasts to document their progress through the year or discuss their ideas on a variety of issues pertaining to the course.



Remember - you don't need to utilize every known technology! Find tools, software, and apps that support how YOU teach.

Emerging Technology Spotlight

3D PRINTING



While not in our hands just yet, a new technology that's starting to seep out into the world is 3D printing. A 3D printer takes a digital 3-d object file and "prints" a 3-dimensional object out of plastic.



The technology is still in its infancy, but think of the possibilities! In Art class, a student could digitally sculpt an object and print it. In Science, a teacher could print out a 3-dimensional representation of human bones or a DNA strand. Social Studies teachers could print out replicas of artifacts from past civilizations.

Learn more about 3-D printing at: <http://www.stratasys.com/industries/education>

Unplugged by Brian Martin

Thanks for making it this far through our first Technology Newsletter update! In each issue, I'll use this spot to vocalize some personal reflections and thoughts about using technology at our school.



For this first blurb, I thought I'd introduce myself! I'm our school's new Technology Facilitator. I'm split between two half-time positions: Sanderson and Leesville Middle. I've spent the last 15 years teaching Video/Film Production in Broughton High School's Media department. I've been so impressed with both of my two new schools! Everyone's been so helpful and friendly!

Feel free to contact me anytime if you're in need of assistance implementing technology in your classroom, general troubleshooting, or just want to talk about Star Wars (I'm a big fan!). I look forward to getting to learn more about YOU and my new schools!

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.