



# TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

4rd quarter, 2013 - 2014

## New Technology Spotlight



One of the most frustrating parts of using technology is plugging devices together. One of the most common forms of connector cables is "USB" - we use them to plug in devices to computers, re-charge cell phones, and sync Ipods.

USB cable developers have announced a new type of USB cable that will feature the same type of connector on both ends - sure to save some daily frustration!

Other improvements will include:

- A smaller size, giving the full-size USB Type-C plug similar dimensions to the micro-USB format used by many smartphones and tablets
- Support for scalable power charging, allowing the cable to offer up to 100 watts
- Data speed transfers of up to 10 Gbps, double what is possible at the moment

These new USB connectors aren't on the market yet. It will also take several years for digital device makers to begin adding in ports to devices, so this new innovation is still a ways off.

## Technology News from WCPSS

WCPSS has purchased 2 new instructional digital resources.

**BrainPOP** creates animated, curriculum-based content that supports educators and engages students - in school, at home, and on mobile devices. Our resources include movies, quizzes, games, mobile apps, experiments, activity pages, and more covering hundreds of topics within Math, Science, Social Studies, English, Technology, Arts & Music, and Health. This subscription also provides access to **BrainPOP Jr.** and **BrainPOP Espanol**.



The second new product is called

**netTrekker**. Its resources cover every grade and subject in a variety of formats — images, videos, lesson plans, primary source documents, learning games, and more. Users can also access resources for in-class instruction, homework, research, project-based learning, remediation, enrichment, and everything in between.



The Media Center will pass along login information as soon as it is available.

# Successful Learning & Momentum

by Kristy Meyrick, WCPSS Inst. Technology, Reprinted with permission

Education specialists all over the world describe the essence of good teaching as something measurable, tangible, visible. Success is not a mystery. Students can show what success looks like. Teachers can have conversations around student success. How does this occur; how do teachers talk about what good teaching looks like? As we all strive to improve our craft, how do we go about encouraging positive peer interaction, protocol for discussion -- online and face to face? Like anything new, we must be explicit, straightforward and clear to the point where the success criteria is obvious.

This involves much more than simply posting objectives on the board. Learning outcomes need to be part of individual student's goal setting. As we design learning opportunities to meet the needs of our individual students, we need to include the students in the design process. After all, what is our end game -- to push student learning into the zone of proximal development, to remove scaffolds, teach metacognition and academic independence, guarantee student success, to remove labels so that students will have a growth mindset, establish a safe learning environment where students can and should take risks, make mistakes, and grow learners.



As John Hattie explains in his latest publication, Visible Learning for Teachers: Maximizing Impact on Learning, thinking is hard work. No learner naturally chooses to think independently. This is why questioning, having deep conversations, debating, making comparisons and digging deeper is so important for all learners! My team and I believe that promoting wonder is one of the secrets to making students engaged stakeholders in their own learning.

eWISE is an inquiry learning process, where students choose the direction of their learning based on interests, questioning, natural curiosity and exploration. The cyclical process includes developing strong questions based on wonder. Students want to know



more, want to learn, read, research, discover, think. They investigate independently, collaboratively and with teacher support. Synthesis is where the thinking comes in. Students decide what information is important enough to express, to share, to solve problems; and throughout the process learners evaluate. They evaluate their own thinking; they evaluate the information they discover. Peers and teachers provide evaluative feedback, ask questions and

display genuine interest in the information the students are sharing and applying. To learn more about the eWISE model, visit the [ITLMS website](#).

## Tool Spotlight: Socrative Response System

A few years ago, "clickers" were the classroom technology rage. But, they required a lot of preparation to utilize them in lessons. Socrative is an online app that permits quick responses from an audience. You can gauge a quick snapshot of what students understand, use it for an exit ticket, or create and administer quizzes that Socrative will grade for you.

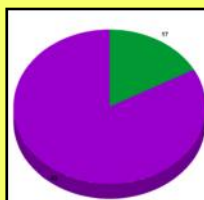
- Can be used on different devices: Ipad, computer, even a cell phone.
- Requires teacher account creation, but students do NOT have to create an account to use this tool.
- Easily create and save quizzes. You can also import Socrative quizzes made by others, or share your creations with other educators!
- Include digital photos or graphics in quiz questions!
- instant feedback for both teacher and student!
- Quizzes are graded by the app - saves time and effort!
- Great for classrooms where every student has a device - but works well with a limited number of devices, too!

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

School Ipads also have the Socrative app. Teacher Ipads feature both a Student and a Teacher app, while student Ipads only feature the student app. Take note - it's labeled simply as "Student" under the app icon.

### FUN FACT!

Only 17% of K-12 teachers encourage students to connect with them via social media, according to a University of Phoenix study.



### Socrative Help



## socrative

Spend a few minutes learning this service and you'll see how easy it is to use.

[Video tutorial](#)

[Paper tutorial](#)

[Socrative Garden Blog](#)

### Lesson Idea

Use a digital camera to take pictures of student's faces. Print out the photos and have students cut out their face.

Using bulletin board paper, have students draw the rest of the body of a historical figure - life size! Marie Antoinette, Ben Franklin - anyone aligned with your lesson. Tape or glue the head onto the drawn body. Display student creations with the heading "We're History!"



Just one  
session  
left this  
year!

# TECH THURSDAYS

Short sessions to get you moving with technology.

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 school Ipad to the session(s), which will be held in the Media Center.

APRIL  
24

## VIDEO

Learn basic Ipad video shooting techniques.

ELECTIVES  
8:30 - 9:00

8th  
9:30 - 10:00

7th  
12:00 - 12:30

6th  
1:45 - 2:15

ALL SESSION PARTICIPANTS  
GET A PRIZE FROM THE  
"GRAB BAG!"

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

See Brian Martin in the Media Center for more info.

## Media Center News by Lisa Nelson

- **Circulation stats** for the last two months:  
6th Grade = 883, 7th Grade = 882, 8th Grade = 516 books.
- **April is Poetry Month.** Information available in the Media Center about the Wake County Public Library Teen Poetry Contest. Submissions due on April 30th.
- April is also School Library Month. **Diary of a Wimpy Kid** book 9 is being released in November of 2014. We have information available about a contest to predict what the next book cover will look like. Submissions due on April 21st.
- Brian Martin and I met with the **MTAC Students (Media Technology Advisory Committee)** on 4/10/14. We have some tech savvy students! Great ideas will be shared with the rest of the committee on May 7th at 3:30 p.m.
- **Books for Fines Update:** We donated just over 350 books and cleared \$178.50 in fines. Wake Up and Read made its goal of 40,000 books to give to underprivileged kids for the summer!

- **The Young Adult Librarian** from Leesville Community Library will be coming to visit our 6th Grade Language Arts classes on May 19th about their summer reading program and will bring library card applications. I will be available to share this info with the 7th and 8th Grade teams. See me to schedule a time.



- Remember to **check the sheet** I put in your mailboxes about what you have checked out in your name. It will save time at the end of the year! If you need me to print another one, let me know.
- **All Library Books for students will be due on May 23rd.**
- Please come pick out some books for your classroom from those I have weeded. It is currently only Fiction, but non-fiction is next. I have the books on carts near the copy room. Put your name inside them so if they end up back upstairs with me I can get them back to you.
- May is National Barbeque and National Blood Pressure Month...sounds like good themes for testing preparation and will make some interesting library displays.

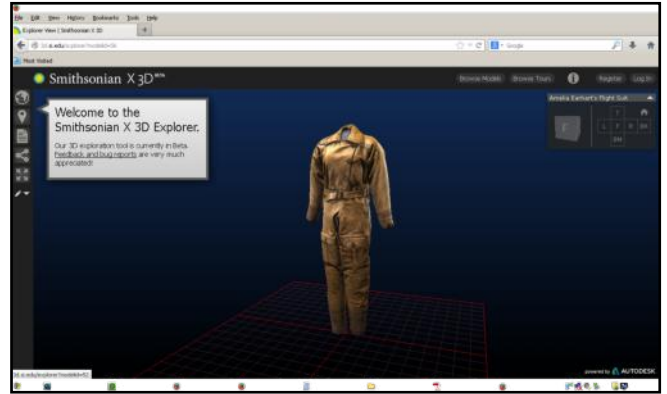


# Helpful Links For Your Classroom

## Smithsonian X3-D

<http://3d.si.edu/>

A new source of fun multimedia content. Move around virtual 3-D versions of some of the Smithsonian's artifacts. Video content and virtual tours give teachers a lot of fun options to make learning engaging!



## Fakebook

<http://www.classtools.net/FB/home-page>

Students can create a fake Facebook-type page for fictitious or historical characters. Imagine a news feed from Charlemagne or "liking" Edgar Allen Poe's newest writing.



## Unplugged by Brian Martin

I'm a big fan of the band Journey. Their hits, like "Don't Stop Believin'," "Faithfully," and "Separate Ways" always make me smile. Their latest album, featuring new lead singer Arnel Pineda, has a track called "Human Feel." The song is all about how connected we are in today's society with digital devices...



*In a jungle of hardware and mass frustration,  
Overloaded with way too much information these days.  
I'm needing more than the virtual world I'm seeing.  
Could someone just let me talk to a live human being?*

As we become more and more emersed in screens (computers, TVs, phones, and so on) - it's important to remember the "human feel." Technology is wonderful and can take us to great places - but so can connecting and interacting with nature, our surroundings, and most importantly - other humans.

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.