



# TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

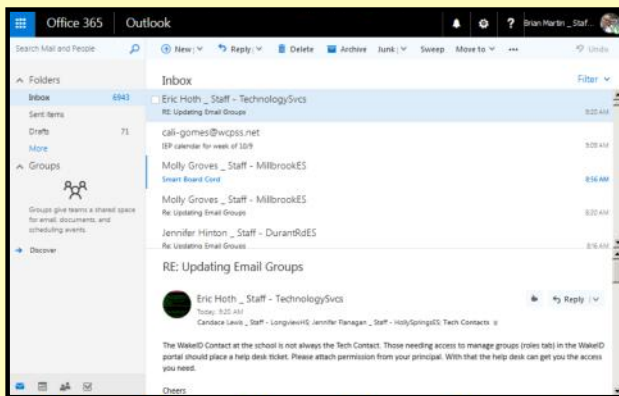
2nd Quarter, 2017 - 2018

## Technology News at LRHS

We're kind of happy to say there isn't much technology news happening at the school level at the moment! After so many changes and the influx of devices on our campus, it's nice to take a breather for a moment.

Ms. Foster has been busy entering BYOD information into PowerSchool (a new feature that was turned on over the summer). You'll soon be able to look into your own WakeID Portal and see who has BYOD permission and who has been denied.

Mrs. Moore is hard at work trying to secure some technology items for the new collaboration space. Hopefully we'll have news about that soon.



Sample of the new Outlook email interface

## Canvas Learning Central

Looking for a staff Canvas course that you participated in for curriculum resources or professional development? These courses have moved! To access staff courses, follow these directions:

- Click on the "Learning Central" icon in the blue global navigation bar. You will enter the new Staff Canvas site. You know you are in the staff site because the global navigation bar changes from blue to orange.
- Click on the orange Dashboard icon.

Courses that involve K12 students will remain on this dashboard.

## WCPSS Tech News

Things keep evolving at a staggering pace at the district level. The new Intranet site hasn't launched as of this writing, but should be live soon.

The electronic [paystub platform](#) was revamped at the end of September - but contains most of the same functionality.

WCPSS has launched "WakeVUE." See the spotlight on this new tool elsewhere in this newsletter.

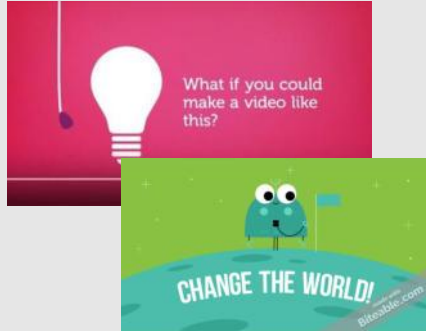
Most importantly, the district is in the process of converting our email client from LotusNotes to Outlook. Media staff has been transitioned already. Tanya Churchill at Underwood Elementary has put together [a few slides](#) that illustrate what you'll experience when the transition happens to your email account, as well as a few tips. Know that it will likely take you a couple of days to adapt to the new interface. Look for an email notification from the district about when your email will change over.

While not directly related to LRHS, you should be aware that the district is about to roll out the new 3:1 devices to elementary schools. The device leaders have chosen for elementary schools is a Chromebook - which runs on the Android operating system, not Microsoft Windows. This means that within a few years we'll likely see a lot of students entering middle schools with limited experience using Windows-based computers. This also opens up the ability for all schools to purchase them. However, Tech Services has stated they will not be providing support for these devices.



Also of note - a new video conferencing app will be coming soon to your WakeID Portal - called Vidyo.

## Digital Tool: Biteable Video Maker



Access it at:

<http://www.biteable.com>

Teachers are often in need of creating a short video commercial. Whether it's to share a concept with your students or to post to your teacher website (or even the school website) to advertise an event, Biteable is a helpful tool that gives you animated, polished results.

It's template based and lets you add text, custom media, and audio. With free accounts, the video is published to YouTube (which in turn, can be shared wherever you like). Note the free version publishes content with a watermark. This tool should be used by teachers only - as students do not receive a YouTube account from WCPSS.

Note this is a web-based tool, no app is available for mobile devices.

## Google Add-Ons for Teachers

Richard Byrne, author of the blog FreeTech4Teachers, recently put together a list of helpful add-on tools for Google Drive and the Google Chrome browser that can make you super-productive!



From a word cloud creator to a bibliography maker to math character generators to grading tools - there's a lot to look through!

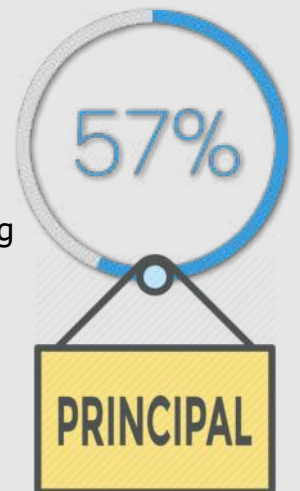
Access the list and descriptions by following this link...

<https://app.box.com/s/rnd1cxvqpmq9o0gqgp5lhi4tp7wsfqzf>

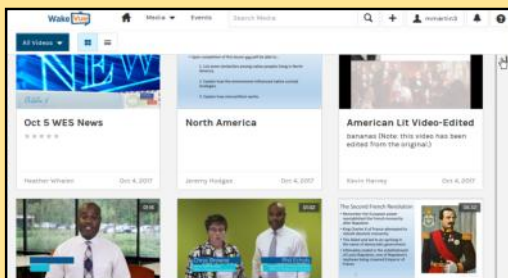
## FAST FACT

57% of surveyed K-12 principals say the lack of teacher training is the top barrier to integrating technology in their school.

- EdTech Magazine, Summer 2017



## WakeVUE - A Place to Share User-Created Video!



This fall WCPSS introduced yet another new tool available to teachers: WakeVUE. Think of it as an alternative to YouTube when you want to post video to the Internet.

The service permits staff (not students) to upload user-created videos and share them. You can control sharing settings on your video, allowing only certain factions of the school system to see a video you added - or open it up to the whole world.

The videos reside on servers here in Wake County, meaning connection speeds are usually faster than videos found on YouTube.

Access it through your [WakeID Portal](#). Note you can only upload videos YOU create. You're not permitted to upload video content created by others (such as adding a television show you recorded yourself).

LEESVILLE FEELS THE FORCE  
...OF READING!

COMING TO THE MEDIA CENTER  
DECEMBER 5th!



**STAR**  
THE LAST PAGE  
**WARS**  
READING DAY 2017

BRING YOUR CLASS!  
SIGN UP NOW!

<http://bit.ly/swreading2017>

## Teacher Online Presence

Whether you use a blog, Google Classroom, Canvas, a website, or something else - all teachers should have some kind of presence on the World Wide Web.

So, once you have an online presence, what should be included on it?!

- Teacher Contact Information
- Homework Calendar
- Rules / Expectations / Syllabus
- Grading Policies
- Required Student Materials
- Copies of Notes and/or Handouts
- Links to Enrichment
- Video Clips
- Links to School Website / Calendars

It's important to keep your web presence updated and current! A parent or student can get easily frustrated if they pull up your digital classroom or website and see it hasn't been updated in months. Be sure homework postings are up-to-date! Look at other teachers' web spaces to find some inspiration!



**TECH**  
*Tuesday*

Short PD sessions to  
get you moving  
with technology.

## UPCOMING SESSIONS

Meet in the Media Center.	1st Period 7:45 - 8:30	2nd Period 9:15 - 10:00	3rd Period 10:45 - 11:30	4th Period 1:15 - 2:00
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### NOV. 14 Google Apps Intro

Never got on-board with WCPSS Google Apps? Come learn the basics - and hear an overview of all the powerful tools available. Great for teachers new to WCPSS! Bring your teacher laptop.

### DEC. 12 Plickers

An oldie but goodie! If you've never tried Plickers, come see how you can use one single teacher device to collect instant feedback from your students. No student devices required!

### JAN. 16 Wizer

Forget lines at the copy machine. Create digital interactive worksheets that you can "pass out" to students through a variety of ways (including Google Classroom). Bring your teacher laptop.



Plickers requires just one teacher device (such as a smart phone or iPad).

# The 4Cs: Sparking Creativity

In our never-ending quest to incorporate the 4Cs into instruction, creativity is one element that really works hand-in-hand with technology. Digital tools are great for creating products like posters, video productions, animations, podcasts, even 3-D designs.



Look at the following assignment ideas. What types of digital creativity projects could you align with these? What kinds of digital creation projects could align with your own curriculum goals and learning objectives? It's easier to do than you might think!

**1. Create a different ending to the novel The Outsiders. What might have happened had there not been a fire?**

**2. Imagine what would happen if we suddenly found out that there was no possible way to get connected to the Internet.**

**3. Invent a different proof for the Pythagorean theory.**

MAKE PODCAST?

MAKE 3-D MODEL?

MAKE ANIMATION?

MAKE POSTER?

MAKE VIDEO?

MAKE WEBSITE?

Adapted from: Brain-Based Teaching in the Digital Age, by Marilee Sprenger, 2010.

## Unplugged by Brian Martin

I often use this space to present counter-arguments to other content within the newsletter. Several tools spotlighted in this issue discuss the usage of motion-picture video content. I'm a firm believer that motion pictures are good things for the world; from entertainment to archiving history to communicating ideas and knowledge. I spent 15 years teaching the art form - and have been a filmmaker myself since I was 13 years old.



[A new study conducted at the University of Chile](#), however, found "static images may make for more effective educational materials than their dynamic, animated counterparts." The research shows that it can be difficult for students to retain understanding of concepts presented on-screen, because they disappear and are not permanent.

In addition, "flipped" type instructional videos, where you often see an instructor's hand within the shot (writing on the board or as a pointer), can be a negative. The hand can actually detract from the student's cognitive ability to understand the content being presented, according to the study. While there are no definitive findings yet (the researcher plans to continue and expand his work), it's worth noting that motion pictures may not be quite as effective with learners as most of us think.

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

<http://www.wcpss.net/lrhsteachers>

Contact our school Instructional Technology Facilitator, Brian Martin, or Media Specialists Wendy Dragone and Erica Knightstep, if you're interested in collaborating on a lesson implementing technology.