TECHNOLOGY
UPDATE

WCPSS Technology News

In January, many teachers received a cart of laptops for classroom usage. By providing these, the district hopes you will use them for instructional purposes. While BYOD devices and other laptop carts can help you achieve a 1:1 ratio when needed, here are some ideas just about any teacher could use with 10 laptops in the classroom...

- Utilize in a learning station scenario - students or groups visit a laptop station - watch a video or complete an activity together.

- Use the laptops to help individualize instruction for challenging students. For example, an ESL student could watch a video (or read information) in the student's native language as you lecture the class in English.

- Permit student groups to create a multimedia project together on a laptop - such as a digital poster, audio recording, or video.

- Have students research a particular topic in small groups. Have students share their findings (text, images, video) by attaching their group's laptop to your projector.

- Utilize assessment tools like Socrative or Kahoot, dividing students up into teams to take part in the game.

- Create "shifts" for students to have time with a laptop for an activity. For example, one third of the class could be reading a paper article, one third of the class could be working on a written assignment, and one third of the class could be using a laptop for a tech activity. Rotate around so each student takes part in each of the 3 activities.
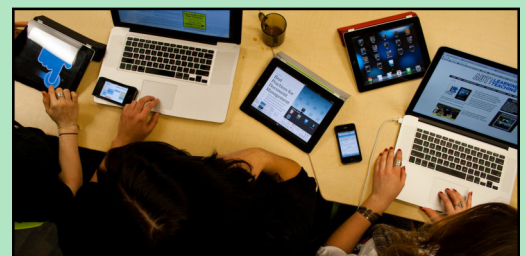
LRHS Technology News

BYOD is here! The Bring-Your-Own-Device program kicked off in January. So, how's it going?! We asked some teachers to check in...

"My students do Kahoot or Quizizz. Sometimes they revise or edit their papers in Google Docs. They've completed Works Cited collaboratively in groups. It's been a very positive thing."
  - Monica Wilkerson, English

"It doesn't really help me a whole lot because of the nature of my class and what we do. I have a few students bring their Surface tablets in. One student been using it and hooks it up to a monitor, and it works for him pretty well for him. I've noticed an increase in students using their phone for texting and calls."
  - Mr. Robinson, CTE

"Students are a lot more familiar with sharing with each other, for example - peer editing. It does help with group work! They're also on their phones a lot! The kids should know at this point that they shouldn't be immediately on it if the stoplight is on yellow - but that's not always the case."

  - Sarah White, English

Control Yourself: Self Regulation

You have access to a folder of materials dealing with BYOD at our school (it's available through Google Drive, as well as on the Shared Drive). Self-Regulation is one of the topics covered in these materials. Self-Regulation is the idea that students (and adults!) have to regulate themselves when it comes to using technology. It's easy to get distracted by things like texts and social media while on a device.

The concept of self regulation is that students need to identify and manage their thoughts, behaviors, and emotions so they stay on target to reach their desired learning outcome. It's a concept that can be beneficial to students not just with technology, but in the larger picture of learning at school.

There are many tools available (some for free) which help students (and adults) self-regulate themselves while on tech devices. Check out the information in the BYOD Google folder or Shared Drive to learn more.

Tons o' Tools!

Classtools.net contains a collection of useful, free tools for students and teachers. Turn a paper assessment into an arcade game of Pac-Man. There's a citation maker. Hexagons Generator helps turn lists into visual collections of shapes. Create a virtual 3-D gallery of images. Venn Diagram templates, puzzle creators, an image labeling tool - the list of helpful apps goes on and on.

The best part - no account creation is needed for these tools - for teachers or students! A great way to find creative technology to help students learn - and show what they have learned.

Access it:
http://www.classtools.net

Teacher Spotlight: Memrise with Dr. Mash

Memorization can be very important when it comes to learning a second language. Dr. Mark Mash set out to research what digital tool might be his best choice to help his students learn. His results pointed him at a service called Memrise.

"The great thing about this technology is that it is backed up by science about learning and memory," he says. "I am stressing to my students that this is a tool for one specific task: vocabulary acquisition, a critical component for any foreign language study. I have often heard students tell me how great Quizlet was, but I think Memrise is superior because it is not simply a digital version of a paper flashcard."

Dr. Mash goes on to point out that this learning can be adaptive. "Students schedule regular times to study, are constantly tested in a variety of manners, and the algorithms of the program help students learn the words that they need most help learning. In this way, the technology individualizes learning and differentiates in a powerful way."

Mrs. Carrie Mash also sees the benefit of the service. "The teacher creates a course and can create groups for individual class periods. The program tests the students in various ways and keeps track of how thoroughly they have learned each item."

"I think it has the potential to be a game-changer," Dr. Mash says. Check it out and see if you agree!

Music & Sound Effects for Multimedia Projects

When students create videos, podcasts, or just about any presentation that requires background music, their first instinct is to grab something from their iTunes account. If the presentation is going to be shared with the public (posted to YouTube, a website, or other means of exhibition), copyrighted music (pretty much all pop music) can't be used. Here are several spots where you can find free music without copyright restrictions (called royalty free music)...
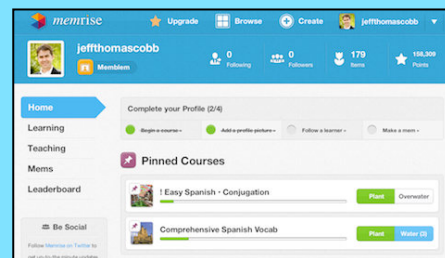
Internet Archive

Royalty Free Music

Musopen's Classical Music

Sound Bible

The Memrise Interface

Access it at: http://www.memrise.com
or via mobile app
(note some features are not free)

Click here to read research about how this tool is used in Latin.

In March, the district changed lots of things about the way we login to different applications we all use quite often. Here's a visual summary that might help give you a better overall picture of where to access what...

TECH LOGINS FOR STUDENTS

Login to School Computers

Username: Student ID Number
Password: Initial password is Student ID Number
Reset: Teachers can use Reset tool on Shared Drive

NCEd Cloud

PowerSchool for students & parents
SchoolNet
Class Registration

Username: Student ID Number
Initial Password: N/A Claim Account
Reset: Teacher of record can reset password, much like in WakeID Portal

WakeID Portal

WCPSS Student Email
Google Apps
Canvas
SAS Curriculum Pathways
Mastery Connect

Username: WakeID
Initial Password: Student ID Number
Reset: Any teacher can reset any student in WakeID Portal

TECH LOGINS FOR TEACHERS

Login to School Computers

Username: WakeID
Password: Initial password is "welcome"
Reset: Contact Media Specialist

NCEd Cloud

NCEES Evaluation System
SchoolNet
EVAAS

Username: NCUID (number on paystub)
Initial Password: N/A (Claim Account)
Reset: See Media Specialist or Data Manager

WakeID Portal

WCPSS Staff Email
Google Apps
Canvas
SAS Curriculum Pathways
Easi
Mastery Connect

Username: WakeID
Initial Password: N/A (Claim Account)
Reset: See Media Specialist

Tech Tuesdays: There's Still Time to Learn!

The last Tech Tuesday PD of the year happens **April 18th**. Bring your teacher laptop to the Media Center during your planning period and let's learn!

Digital Video Content & Tools (content) - bring laptop

An overview of digital video content available to you.

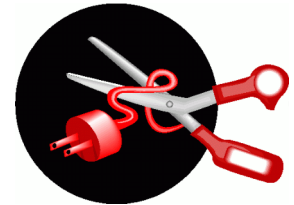All sessions will be held in the Media Center.

1st Period	2nd Period	3rd Period	4th
7:45 - 8:30	9:15 - 10:00	10:45 - 11:30	1:15 - 2:00

Unplugged   by Brian Martin

I taught in a WCPSS classroom for 15 years before moving into my ITF role. I received some tasty home-baked cookies once in a while from my students. The PTSA provided treats or a t-shirt on occasion. The school itself even gave staff members a beautiful glass holiday ornament one year. These gifts certainly made me smile and feel appreciated. Did they truly have any effect on how I helped my students succeed? Not really.

The district itself doesn't provide us with any form of consistent replinishment of tech hardware to help our students succeed. Sure, they pass along money to the school - where decisions are made about how that money is best spent - which isn't always on new devices.

That's all changed now that the 2013 Technology Bond has finally provided us with a giant influx of student laptops. It's not everyday that a teacher receives 10 laptops (at around $500 each), plus a custom-made charging cart. It's probably the most impressive "gift" I've ever seen WCPSS provide to teachers' classrooms. While not every teacher received this - a large percentage of teachers across the district did.

Ettiquite, of course, requires saying "thank you" for gifts. While there's no one person to write a thank you note to - there are ways to show your appreciation through actions, not words....

1. Take care of the devices and the cart! There is no plan in place for replacement, so these tools must last us for the forseeable future.

2. Use them! What a waste of taxpayer money if these laptops simply sit in a cart collecting dust.

3. Take learning the the next level! Sure, students can type up essays or find an online article to read. Try using the devices for more than that. Create video or podcasts. Video conference with a remote instructor or guest speaker. Take a virtual field trip. Create objects in 3-D. Find interactive resources rather than passive ones.

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 & Erica Knightstep, if you're interested in collaborating on a lesson utilizing technology.