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Talk Nerdy To Me

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IPads In The Classroom

Boone County Schools presented a 3-day Tech Conference during the summer of 2012. Each teacher who attended the conference received an iPad. Participants were divided into groups according to subject and/or grade level so that each teacher could receive the maximum benefit from the conference. The conference was organized by Kim Duty, Boone County Tech Coach. Most of the presenters for the conference were coaches, teachers, or TIS from the county.

During the conference, all attendees created accounts in Collaborize Classroom and Twitter. These were used for "homework" and to develop skills in using the sites. Teachers also attended technology sessions on using technology stations, using Mobi and responders, web page design, Pinterest and Dropbox to name a few.



Presenters from outside the county included:

- Mark Moore from the WVDE who presented a session on 21st Century Learning
- Joey Wiseman and Sarah Scott who discussed Textbooks for Today and the Future for various subject areas.

In addition to subjects pertaining to technology, a session was presented concerning movement in the classroom

On the final day of the conference, teachers were presented with the iPads and attended an introductory session on using the iPads both for personal and classroom use.

For those teachers in the county who could not attend the summer conference, a fall conference is being held. Teachers will attend 3 evening sessions and an all day Saturday session to receive their iPad. Different sessions (as well as some from the summer conference) are being added this fall which include assessing 21st Century Skills, ipadio, blended learning and flipped classrooms.

During the conferences the teachers received a wealth of technology information that can help them create classrooms with fun, interesting and up-to-date learning atmospheres. Teachers who attended also had the option of receiving college credit for the conference.

Twelve Days of Christmas



Twelve Days
of Christmas
Stockbyte/Getty

Ever wonder how much it would actually cost to buy the 12 Days of Christmas? Now is an excellent time to put your students' math skills to the test. Have your students research online the cost of each of the items for the 12 days. (Keep in mind you may not want your students to search the cost of a dancing lady – you may want to have a few of them ahead of time.) You can decide if they need to also factor in the cost of the activity. (ie:

swans a swimming, Do they need to factor in a pond or swimming pool?) Then have them use the different mathematical properties to calculate the actual cost for each of those days. You may be surprised on how much money one will spend to celebrate. Need an idea for tech steps, try using Excel to calculate your results in a simple spreadsheet. Your students will need to purchase the following:

- 1 – Partridge in a Pear Tree
- 2 – Turtle Doves
- 3 – French Hens
- 4 - Calling Birds
- 5 – Golden Rings
- 6 – Geese Laying
- 7 – Swans a Swimming
- 8 – Maids a Milking
- 9 – Ladies Dancing
- 10 – Lords a Leaping
- 11 – Pipers Piping
- 12 – Drummers Drumming

Thinglink.com

The Holiday's are a wonderful time to add special activities in to your lessons for your students. What are some special things you do? Share them with all of us on the following thinglink—

[http://
tinyurl.com/
thinglinkHoliday](http://tinyurl.com/thinglinkHoliday)



All I Want For Christmas...

1. To spend time with family and friends.
2. To relax and recharge with a positive outlook for the remainder of the school year.
3. For senior students to come back energized and ready to complete FAFSA's and senior projects.
4. To get organized.
5. To get caught up.
6. To figure out what makes all my new equipment intriguing and wonderful.
7. To integrate the new equipment usage into the Next Gen standards.
8. To figure out where I put all my notes on the good stuff.
9. To get my student projects outlined and ready for January
10. Truthfully? What I really want is a week off, a good book, and some warm weather.

23 Things for Christmas!

1. Create a framed Holiday Plans List using holiday wrapping paper <http://tinyurl.com/holidayplans>
2. Make a countdown to Christmas activity chain <http://tinyurl.com/christmascount-downchain>
3. Host a cookie exchange
4. Watch Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer
5. Pick and cut your own Christmas Tree <http://tinyurl.com/owntreeww>
6. Deck the Halls - or your classroom door for the holiday season. Need some Ideas check out this site: <http://tinyurl.com/halldoordisplay>

7. Maintain your "Peace" - <http://tinyurl.com/holidaystressfree>
8. Get caught under the Mistletoe.
9. Go Caroling through your neighborhood.
10. Come up with the perfect White Elephant Gift Exchange Present. <http://tinyurl.com/giftexchangepresent>
11. Help out at your local food pantry.
12. Communicate. Talk with family members about what Christmas traditions are important to keep. Then find ways to simplify your celebrations and make them more meaningful.

13. Give a little or a lot - drop some change in the Salvation Army Kettle.

14. Listen to Christmas music. Fill the house with the sounds of the season. Select traditional carols that celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

15. Mail your Christmas cards early!

16. Read [Twas the Night Before Christmas](#) by Clement C. Moore

17. Bake cookies - One Dough, Six Cookies <http://tinyurl.com/onedough>

18. Start a Flash Mob - or just enjoy watching one: <http://tinyurl.com/christasmob>

19. Cook something fabulous. Don't know where to Start? Try this: <http://video.about.com/food.htm>

20. Find the perfect mis-

chief for your Elf on the Shelf. <http://tinyurl.com/elfshelf2012>

21. Make Cinnamon Ornaments. <http://tinyurl.com/cinnamonnondible>

22. Attend a Special Christmas Service.

23. Find ways to help others. December is a great month to help people who are less fortunate. Clean out closets and donate gently used items to local outreach centers. Buy a Christmas gift for a needy child. Bring food to your local food pantry. Visit relatives in a nursing home. Bring cookies to a home-bound neighbor.

Learnist.com

Hauna Zaich posts in her Edutopia.org/Hauna Zaich's blog 11/12 that she is using Learnist, a website similar to Pinterest. She accesses "Learnboards" for her flipped classroom lessons using reading, examples, videos, and online activities to motivate and stimulate her students.



"Three phrases that sum up Christmas are:

Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men,

and Batteries not Included." ~Author Unknown

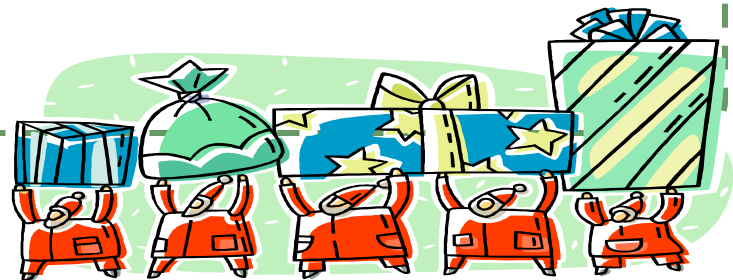
Challenger Learning Center

Mingo County is proud of the advances that are being made in the classrooms using technology. The Gifted Education Class has also taken on the task of using technology to enhance learning. Students are often seen researching topics using iPads or laptops.

Many of the students download text or novels that are relevant to the classroom activities. The latest adventure was an E-mission in conjunction with Wheeling Jesuit University. With the assistance of Mrs. Virginia Taylor-Mounts, County TIS, the class connected with the Challenger Learning Center in Wheeling, West Virginia, to conduct a "Hurricane Alert." The students, via skype, were able to track a storm that was a simulation of Hurricane Katrina. Students were responsible for tracking the storm,

entering data, naming the storm and issuing alerts and warnings to the general public. It was an educational experience that allowed students to translate classroom knowledge into relevant, real world practice. The students followed up with a visit to the Challenge Center in Wheeling, West Virginia.

The Challenger Learning Center "provides students along with teachers and adult learners with simulations that emphasize teamwork, problem-solving, decision-making and communication skills." Each year more than 30,000 students fly missions through our e-Missions™ program. For more information contact The Challenger Learning Center at clc.wju.edu.



SurveyMonkey.com

"Are your friends ablutophic?" "Log in to SurveyMonkey and let's take a moment to analyze the results you have found." Well that's not a phrase any of us heard in school, but at Wirt County Middle School students are doing just that. Engaging their peers with new Web 2.0 tools, transforming learning from the desktop to the web.

SurveyMonkey.com is an online web tool that lets users create free accounts with a valid email address. The free account lets you create surveys with up to ten questions and provides formats and layouts that are ready to use. After the user enters their survey questions, this site provides you

with a link to your survey that can easily be placed in an email or as a link on a web page. Logging in to take the survey is as easy as a click and the site will submit the responses automatically to SurveyMonkey for analysis.

So how is this being used in the classroom? At WCMS students have used SurveyMonkey to poll other students on the superstitions they have. Seventh grade students sent an email with their link to five superstition questions. Students used both rating scales and simple response questions to ask their peers about some of their greatest fears. Responses then were used to analyze what the greatest superstition was.

Teachers are using this as a way to have students interact during bell ringers, and since it provides immediate analysis it works as a quick assessment tool. It's also a great tool for polling staff members on student of the month and analyzing what topics should be covered on professional development days. The options are endless.

So what is ablutophic, well if you teach middle school, you may think some of your students have this phobia especially right after gym class. Yes, ablutophic is the fear of washing or bathing.

Happy Surveying!

