



# Talk Nerdy To Me

## Breaking News!!!

### Apple vs. Samsung

#### TIS Publishers



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There are so many different tablet computers on the market it is getting hard to tell them apart. Numerous manufacturers such as Apple, Sony, Nokia, HTC, Samsung, or Vizio produce multiple tablets, and they are all a flat rectangular touch screen device that acts as a handheld computer. Apple had such a hard time telling its products apart from the competition that it sued Samsung for over 2 billion dollars concerning seven claims of patent infringement in April 2011. Samsung of course countersued for over 400 million dollars, stating its own infringement issues with Apple.

Well the jury has recently passed a verdict hugely in Apple's favor, finding Samsung guilty of infringing six of the seven patents and twenty-one of the devices in question, adding up to around one billion dollars. Samsung was found guilty of willfully violating three utility patents that cover things like document dragging, rotating by twisting, pinch to zoom, and the bounce back affect when scrolling. Samsung was also found guilty of willfully violating two design patents and another one unwillfully. Those particular patents pertain to the rounded edges and back to the iPad. Incidentally Sam-

sung lost all of its countersuits.

The ramifications of this court case could be big in the future, but current devices will not be drastically affected aside from a few possible software updates. Tablet designers everywhere will now forever be concerned with stepping on Apple's toes, and considering Apple has patented something as universal as a certain finger movement it could be hard to work around. This will likely lead to a few slow awkward years of tablet development, but eventually

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## Culturally Responsive Teaching and The Achievement Gap

Teachers met at the Holiday Inn in Martinsburg, WV to attend Berkeley County Schools third annual Summer Institute 2012. Held June 18-22, 2012, teachers participated in a week long training on Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Achievement Gap. The event was organized by Veronique N. Walker, Director of Diversity and Student Support Services for Berkeley County Schools in Berkeley County West Virginia. The objective of the Institute was

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## MGSD Summer Connection 2012

### Mingo County Educators Attend Three Day Conference

Mooresville Graded School District of Mooresville, North Carolina developed and implemented a full 1:1 digital conversion in the Fall of 2008 with students from the third to twelfth grade. This implementation involved placing laptops in the hands of every student from the third to the twelfth grades, as well as a SMARTboard in every kindergarten through third grade classroom.

The MGSD now offers a three day Summer Connection conference where they share, motivate and aid teachers, administrators and school board personnel on content-specific trainings, strategic planning assistance, and implementation tools on how to convert to a full digital environment for teachers and students..

A group of Mingo County educators from Tug Valley and Mingo Central High School attended the three day event in August. Much to their surprise, the guest speaker for the opening session was former WV Governor, Bob Wise. Gov. Wise now serves as the President of Alliance for Excellent Education, a national policy and advocacy organization that strives to improve federal policies that will allow for all students to achieve at high levels and graduate with college and career readiness skills for the 21st Century. Governor Wise stressed that learning isn't done by technology but is made possible because of technology.

He described technology as "constructive turbulence". He referred to it as picking up a bad tail wind on a plane causing turbulence, but the flip side of picking up the tail wind, it was going to get us where we were going, only faster!

Day one not only included a presentation from Gov. Wise, but also three groups of students, middle school, high school, and a two year veteran of the program who just completed his first year of college. The eighth grade student presented "8 Wonders of the World". The basis of his project was to find the difference between excellence and mediocre. He wanted to show that everyone can accomplish excellence. The vocabulary by the student included "decision making", "problem solving", "skill sets" and "hyperlinks". Simply amazing! The second student talked to the educators about how he almost lost his vision in his eyes which caused him to fall behind to the point of failing. He said the 1:1 program, which had all his lessons online, allowed him to "play catch-up" while at home.

The third student, Jonathan, was a college student who experienced two years of the 1:1 program prior to graduation. He had just



completed an 8 month journey around the world. He reiterated to the group of teachers how his digital education prepared him for college and his world travels.

Those in attendance of the three day event attended morning and afternoon sessions led by the teachers and administrators of the Mooresville Graded School District. Topics included Web 2.0 tools used by the teachers and students, example of student works, and statistical data regarding student performance and test achievements. All participants were given logins and passwords to the Angel Blackboard used by the MGSD to communicate with students and parents, post classroom assignments, and homework collection. All materials for the three days were posted to this portal and the training was strictly digital and paper

free.

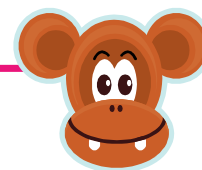
MGSD is a district of approximately 5,500 students and 350 certified staff. Success of the digital 1:1 conversation was evident in their statistical data. The school system showed an increase of 13% during the 2009/2010 school year with 86% proficiency, ranking them 4th in the state of North Carolina. All schools in the district were recognized as Schools of Distinction.

For more information on the Mooresville Graded School System Summer Connection, visit them at:

[http://www5.mgsd.k12.nc.us/staffsites/digitalconversion/Digital\\_Conversion/2012\\_Summer\\_Connection.html](http://www5.mgsd.k12.nc.us/staffsites/digitalconversion/Digital_Conversion/2012_Summer_Connection.html)

How do you feel about student keyboarding? Do they need it? Take our survey at

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2LXYFV5>



# An Interest in Pinterest

If you find yourself getting as bored with Facebook as I did, come on over and take a look at Pinterest, an online cork board in which you can "pin" your favorite things. My daughter and her college roommate showed it to me one day and I have been hooked ever since.

What makes this virtual pin board interesting, is that you can follow people that have similar interests in things like; teaching ideas, feel good or funny quotes, nail polish, works of art, people or new recipes. Photos, videos, web links, and personal testimonials from people who have seen it, been there and tried it, make this more valuable than a Google search. I trust what

these people have to say about products more than what companies have to say about it. You can also follow your friends, because friends usually have a lot in common. I started following a few of my Facebook friends and branched out from there. Think of it as your very own magazine/scrapbook/reference guide.

With Pinterest there is a choice of looking at pins, boards, or people. You can "repin" things that you like onto your boards, or you can just "like" them. Hours can be spent looking at goofy pictures, learning new home spun recipes,

checking out future vacation spots, or just searching through your friends' boards. Taking pictures, writing stories, or capturing videos of your own creations and pinning them is also an option. If you have a wonderful idea, pin it up and watch the world share your idea for you. Boards are categories of things that you pin. What make this site so good is that not only do you spend time looking at new things, but you will enjoy looking at things/pictures you have pinned over, and over again. I search through my recipes and teaching ideas all of the time. Once I even found a recipe with a video from a chef explaining how prepare a dish. Most of

the pins are linked to blogs. I enjoy reading how good cooks came up with great recipes. I have found so many wonderful educational ideas. It is definitely the place to go for good ideas. Speaking of good ideas, it has a spectacular collection of ideas for holidays. I can't wait for Halloween and Christmas to try this stuff.

I started following a local art teacher, Sandy Shaw. I told her one day that after looking at her boards/pins, I feel as if I have visited a famous art museum. If you have not discovered Pinterest yet, give it a try. You won't regret it. It's better that watching TV. Go to [www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com) and join today.

\*Pinterest was founded by [Ben Silberman](#) (of [West Des Moines, Iowa](#)), [Paul Sciarra](#), and [Evan Sharp](#) <sup>[3]</sup> the site is managed by Cold Brew Labs and funded by a small group of entrepreneurs and inventors.\* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinterest>

## Life Long Learning

Two SPOKES students ages 78 and 84 prove to our SPOKES Program - Lifelong learning is not just a catch phrase but reality. Virginia, our 84 year young student's primary goal was to learn to type. She worked as a filing clerk for the majority of her career, but never had the opportunity to learn to type. She had not graduated high school, but as an adult successfully completed her GED. Now, as a referral from the NCOA program she is taking her learning a step further. She works diligently with our typing programs and has improved her keyboarding skills. She was then able to

type letters to family members and felt very proud when her grandchildren were impressed with her letters. The most life changing accomplishment for her however was learning to E-mail. She was so excited to be able to now read her church's newsletter that is now distributed electronically. Her excitement about the concept of E-mail was very evident when she was able to develop a strong friendship with another SPOKES student, Wilma; she briefly met at an NCOA meeting. They live far enough apart that visits were not always possible. Emailing each other as email pals

became a very fulfilling project for both students.



Two SPOKES students ages 78 and 84 prove to our SPOKES Program - Lifelong learning is not just a catch phrase but reality.

This photo depicts our life long learners in a craft activity, where they met face to face.



**2012 WVAEA, Inc. Conference  
October 22-24, 2012  
at Stonewall Resort**



**iConnect  
2Educate  
2Elevate  
2Empower**



## Technology Neck Pain

Feeling stressed, dizzy, or even numbness after spending time on your computer or tablet? Take notice, these symptoms are your body alerting you to potential long-term problems. Of course we all know the dangers of carpal tunnel after spending extended time on keyboards. The newest concern is the neck pain associated with slumping over a tablet. These mobile devices are extremely popular due to their lightweight and ease of use. As mobile as they are, danger still lurks. Being aware of your posture while using such technology is key. Continually keeping your neck in a downward in a flexed position has been documented to cause chronic problems in a study by researchers from Harvard.

An [article](#) published in *Work: A Journal of Prevention, Assessment, and Rehabilitation*, on January 15, 2012, Harvard School of Public Health researchers have begun studying and analyzing the ways in which a person's posture, and also the design of the tablet and its case, affect comfort

The mobility of these devices is important in preventing further pain and discomfort. Moving and changing body position is essential while using a mobile device. It appears from this study that poor posture during extended use can cause serious problems.

The angle of view is very important. Looking straight ahead causes much less strain than slumping forward while looking downward. This study advised using the table cover stands for extended use. Propping the device allows the neck to stay in a more neutral position, minimizing strain.

The good news- this study provides evidence that ergonomic improvements need to be made especially in the workplace as the popularity of mobile tablets continues to grow.

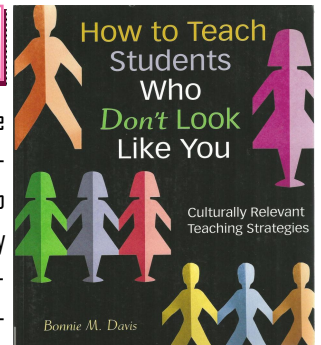
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we should all see some interesting changes to the market.

What is undeniable is that Apple stands to make a lot of money from this ruling. Despite the billion dollars now owed to them, they stand to make a hefty fortune in licensing rights, should they choose to allow them to be used of course. Apple's stock soared the moment the decision was released to add icing to the money cake. Samsung's spokespersons of course maintain that the ruling will hurt the economy and is seeking to overturn the decision, but things don't look good for the company, or any other Android operating tablet manufacturer.

## Culturally Responsive Teaching (continued from page 1)

to provide teacher-training to facilitate professional development events throughout the 2012-2013 school year that will help close the achievement gap for culturally and ethnically diverse students. Participants received 6 hours of Staff Development credit and were given a Handbook:



*How to Teach Students Who Don't Look Like You* and Companion book: *The Facilitator's Guide* By Bonnie M. Davis. All Berkeley county teachers will receive the handbook as well. Teachers were presented with information from various presenters that ranged from distinguished professors, community leaders and members, organizations, pastors, specialists and Federal program directors. The presenters stressed that diversity goes beyond race, not that it isn't an important factor, but it also includes ethnicity, culture, national origin, language, religion, gender, social economic status and learning styles. This institute has given teachers successful strategies (many technology based) for all subjects and grade levels to reach and teach student of varied backgrounds.

## Our Collaboration Tools



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[The Equity Alliance at ASU](#)  
[The Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium](#)  
[The Miniature Earth Project](#)  
[Multicultural Pavilion](#)  
[National Association for Multicultural Education](#)

[The National Center for Culturally Responsive Educational Systems \(NCCREST\)](#)  
[National Institute for Urban School Improvement](#)  
[Rethinking Schools Online](#)  
[Southern Poverty Law Center](#)  
[Teaching For Change](#)  
[Teaching Tolerance](#)  
[West Virginia Connections](#)  
[West Virginia Division of Culture and History](#)

**Diversity Websites  
&  
Resources**