Talk Nerdy To Me...

TIS Publishers:

Courtney Clemons is a Technology Integration Specialist in Greenbrier County. She can be reached at cbclemons@access.k12.wv.us.

Heather Bayne is an instructor at the Marion County Adult and Community Education Center. She can be reached at hbayne@access.k12.wv.us.

Brandy Glover-Frye is an educator at Tyler Consolidated High School. She can be reached at byglover@access.k12.wv.us.

The Class that Sews Together...

By Brandy Glover-Frye

We are making a quilt in Geometry! My tenth grade pull-out geometry classes at Tyler Consolidated High School are working on a project that covers not only geometry but other content areas, too.

The project is a work in progress and the finished product will be displayed at the Middle Island Harvest Festival the first weekend in October. To date students have drawn geometric shapes on graph paper to determine the dimensions, quilt block design, fabric choice and the amount of fabric needed for the project.

We invited Mrs. Dianne Lemasters, an accomplished quilter into our classroom. She discussed the history of quilting and told stories of the Underground Railroad. Mrs. Lemasters shared her quilting tools and together we all measured, marked, cut, ironed, and sewed fabric.

We were successful in connecting and interrelating geometry, technology, quilting and history. Collaboration and co-teaching came into play when Mrs. Grace Grover delivered a lesson on an embroidery machine. Each student programmed the dimensions of the fabric, font style and size for his/her name in the computer. Students then watched the machine do the work on the piece of fabric to be incorporated into their quilt square.

Students have also made thank you notes, been taking photos to create a digital scrapbook as well as journaling about their experience. There is still much work to be done, but daily this process promotes higher-level thinking and incorporates collaborative skills for lifelong success.

We are learning and having fun and invite you to see the finished product at the Middle Island Harvest Festival this fall.

Students at Tyler Consolidated High School are learning through quilting!

Check these out!

www.blabberize.com- Create talking images

www.toondoo.com- Create political cartoons

www.qwiki.com- Create quick interactive stories

www.glogster.com- Create online posters

www.voicethread.com— Post images and allow people to comment on the images

Inside this issue:

Google, Google, Google...

By Heather Bayne

At the Marion County Adult and Community Education Center, instructors and administrators are all getting on board with Google. We had at the Center a special afternoon during which the teachers and administrators participated in a "Learning How to Google" workshop. In this session teachers learned how to use specific features like Google Calendar and Google Docs/Drive to keep track of their busy schedules.

Teachers are using these particular programs to get the center more organized. Using Google Calendar, teachers have created a "School" Calendar and shared it with each other and the administration. Now all the teachers need to do is go to their calendar to sign up to use the computer lab, put down activities where other classrooms will be utilized, etc. This makes the school's scheduling run much more smoothly.

Another way the center is using Google is by using Google Docs/Drive to write their lesson plans and submit them to administrators. Once teachers created a Google Doc and titled it "Lesson Plans 2012-2013 School Year," all they need to do is go to that document, share it with the principal, and simply write! In this program they no longer need to keep clicking "save"; it automatically saves a document every 20 seconds. And once a document is shared, if changes are made to that document those changes can be seen by the person it is shared with. Teachers and administrators are loving this feature when it comes to doing lesson plans!

To learn more about what you can do with Google Applications, check out some of the activities listed on page 4!

There are many Google tools that can be used to make teachers' lives more efficient.

Using Social Networking to Cross the Curriculum...

By Courtney Clemons

Having spent the last few years teaching online, one of my goals as a Technology Integration Specialist this year is to promote the use of sites like Edmodo, Schoology and Thinkfinity Community in order to help students learn across the curriculum.

I will be working in a large elementary school, and I think these tools can be especially effective in the grade levels that are departmentalized. The teachers at this school already work together to educate all of the students in these grades, and creating an online component for their grade level can allow them to bring home to students that science, social studies, reading and math are not entirely separate subjects, but are rather part of a larger learning experience.

For example, four teachers in a departmentalized grade level could create a "3rd-grade Experience" Edmodo page, and use it for certain assignments throughout the year. Parents could also view this page, and get a clearer picture of what their child's school life is like—probably more so than if they limited their communication with their child's homeroom teacher.

> **"It is almost certain that the elementary students of today will eventually have an online class…"**

The students in this grade would also be able to communicate and collaborate with students in the other groups, rather than being limited to their homeroom group. Computer lab time could be scheduled periodically for the students in the grade to complete activities, and classroom computers could be used for this purpose during station time as well.

It is almost certain that the elementary students of today will eventually have an online class, either when they reach high school or college; the more we can do to expose them through blended delivery at the elementary level, the more likely they will be to succeed in an online environment later on!

LEARNZILLION

Learn Zillion: www.learnzillion.com
Subjects: Math and ELA
Grade Levels: 3rd-High school

Features:
*Free for students and teachers
*This website offers Math and English teachers the opportunity to explore lessons created by using the NexGen Standards.
*Lessons are shown in two ways, by video or by slides. The slides are free to download and can be used on interactive whiteboards.
*Lessons can be sorted by Common Core Standards.
*Each video and slide also has commentary from the author explaining key concepts and points of emphasis.
*The teacher can create classes and assign work to students by giving them a code; students can work on lessons at home and at their own pace.
*Teachers can explore different lessons and as they find lessons they can star them; they can also take lessons that they find and save them to the calendar.

Helpful Hints...

Feeling stressed? Need some fresh ideas? Here are some helpful hints from the contributors...

- Keep a reference sheet in your grade book with all logins, passwords, and websites for school programs.

- Read to your students every day to model fluency.

- If your students are communicating online, make sure you talk to them about the do's and don'ts of online communication. This can save you a lot of headaches in the end!

- Make sure you thoroughly review a website before sending students there; also, make sure you review it at your school,

to make sure it is not blocked by the network.

- Explore software like Camtasia (a screencasting tool) and iMovie (similar to Movie Maker). These can really be useful for blended delivery!

- **Info for K-12 classroom teachers, CTE, and K-12 Special Education:** Technology must be infused into the curriculum. However, activities (even those that are required, such as Tech Steps) cannot be seen as the end but simply a means to a greater end. Technology and 21st-century skills need to be used to create a product through experiential learning. Students should begin

keeping and constantly updating a digital portfolio to provide proof of their mastery of the technology and the curriculum. The retention is far greater when the students create projects in a cooperative manner, guided by an experienced educator. Experiences with technology need to be driven by the curriculum and standards, and it must be genuine in order for it to be meaningful.

Getting Ready for the Election...

Every four years we as teachers prepare for the presidential election with our students. It is our job to explain the whole process so when our students come of age to vote they can then make informed decisions on who they will vote for. So this election year, how can we integrate technology into teaching this concept?

Get active with your students and think outside of the box! There are many ways to incorporate technology into this once-every-four-years event. Here are some creative ways that you can incorporate technology into your election lessons!

Play the Election: http://education.randmcnally.com/digital-learning/play-the-election/

Subject: Social Studies

Grade Levels: 7th-12th

Features: Play the Election 2012 is a FREE, digital, project–based learning tool for 7th-12th graders, to teach the upcoming 2012 Elec-

tion. Register now to give your students a dynamic learning experience through interactive activities, writing assignments, and up-to-date polls and headlines.

Play the Election covers the fundamentals of the electoral process, election issues, debates, and political strategies.
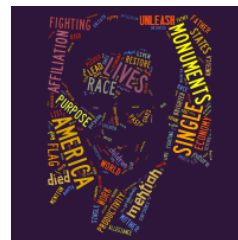
With more than ten standards-aligned lesson plans designed to engage students, this tool is easy for teachers to integrate into an election unit!

Vocabulary, Speeches, News Articles:
www.tagxedo.com

At this site your students can take their vocabulary words, presidential speeches, and current news articles and create word collages using presidential shapes and political figures such as a donkey and an elephant. Then you can decorate your room with your stu-

dents' work!

Candidates and TV Ads:
www.youtube.com

To help your students better understand the candidates running for office, use YouTube now that we have access. Find videos of the candidates and/or TV ads, show them to the students and have a group discussion on their political differences. **Helpful Hint.**..Remember to find the YouTube videos that you would like to show at least a week in advance so you can request access to those videos on the WebTop. Remember, many teachers can now access YouTube with their Webtop logins!

Mock Voting:
www.polleverywhere.com

At election time, you could disguise your school's computer lab as a voting precinct, with partitions between several computers. Create a poll from polleverywhere.com to use as a ballot and have each class vote on a candidate, whether it be a classroom candidate or a presidential candidate. Prior to voting, don't forget to have your students mock register to vote!

Links of Interest and Upcoming Opportunities

October 1-2, 2012: "Infusing Technology—iPad for Math." This conference will take place in Charleston.

"Experience apps that inspire student learning and creativity in math"

"Design a technology-infused lesson that aligns with curriculum standards"

"Gain ideas for engaging students in the exploration of real-world issues and the use of math apps to solve authentic problems"

"Learn how science and engineering instruction can be included with math and technology activities"

The cost is $65, and you can learn more at www.wvcpd.org/EventDetail.aspx?Id=1542

iConnect: 2Elevate, 2Educate, 2Empower: The 2012 WVAEA Conference will be held on October 22-24 at Stonewall Jackson Resort. Registration deadline is Friday, October 5, 2012. After October 5, a $30 late fee will be assessed. No online registrations will be accepted after October 12. To register, please click the following link: http://wvaea.org/2012%20Conference%20Home.html

Teachers First: http://teachersfirst.com/ Teachers First is a collection of lessons, units, and web resources designed to save time by delivering just what you need in a practical, user-friendly, and ad-free format.

Simple Diagrams: http://www.simplediagrams.com/home Simple Diagrams is a desktop application that helps you express your ideas quickly and simply, with simple designs.

Mobi 360/Insight 360 Apps for iPad: http://www.einstruction.com/products/mobile-interactive-whiteboards These apps are an alternative to the Interactive Whiteboard from eInstruction. They allow teachers to control their whiteboards and/or responder systems from anywhere in the classroom!

Common Sense Media: http://www.commonsensemedia.org: Having trouble deciding which tool is the best one? Need information about a new education game? At this website parents and educators can find reviews and advice.

Use Google in many different ways:

Create a Classroom Website:

By creating a Free classroom website through Google it makes it a lot easier for you to post announcements, assign homework, post activities for snow days, provide links to helpful websites like Key Train and the Newspaper, and much more!

Collaborative Homework:

Give students a project in science or social studies using Google Presentations; each student collaboratively works on the same presentation.

When they are finished with their presentation they can then share it with the class using the sharing feature. Make sure that students when presenting mark "Can Comment" for the rest of the class; it is also shared with the teacher.

Use the Chat:

Encourage students to respond to documents, presentations, or spreadsheets in the chat window, so you as the teacher can verbally ask a question and students can then respond in the chat. (This works great when you have a shy class!)

Buddy Edit:

Assign writing buddies, and students can use the "share" feature to edit one another's writing; students should be reminded to include the teacher when sharing documents.

Assessments Using Forms:

Create a form to assess students and share these forms with other teachers.

When students complete assessments, their answers are immediately put into a spreadsheet . Make sure when creating the form you include a space for the student's name.