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...a service of The Point - a classroom blogspace from fcps.net



TIPS - The Technology Feed Vol 7, #1 (September, 2007)

...maintained by Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin, last updated 9/5/2007

TIPS - the Technology Office newsletter - moved to a blog feed in the fall of 2005, delivering ideas and instructional support for Fayette County teachers through blogs maintained by Technology Resource Teachers in the Office of Instructional Technology. For a look at this e-zine before the fall of 2005, look to http://teach.fcps.net/tips/.

Navigation menu with links: Home, Contacts, Public Blogs, and social media icons.

TIPS - The Editor's Desk

Brief musings on the implementation of technology integration in Fayette County Schools...from the Office of Instructional Technology



...from the desk of Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin

Sunday, September 02, 2007 7:51 AM: New Beginnings, 2007-08

These are very exciting times for educational technology! As we begin another school year, some old friends have moved and expanded, and some brand new capabilities have pushed forward. As always, the goal is connections...connecting students to the 21st Century skills they'll need when they leave us, connecting teachers to new instructional resources, connecting and integrating the various disciplines together...and, most importantly, connecting each of us to each other, and to the world in which we live.

See below for "How to Request Help" from our office. Let us help with your instructional technology needs!

TIPS, the educational technology E-Zine, enters its 6th year! Begun in the spring of 2001, this celebration of the Office of Instructional Technology has, itself, morphed several times. It began as a simple collection of links to various web pages, evolving into a fully-online periodical. In the fall of 2005, it changed into a collection of blog contributions, as that online writing platform began to push itself into the forefront of the publishing world.

Here are some of the tools we'll be celebrating and promoting throughout the year.

- The Point: Now in its 3rd year, this blogspace's activity level is growing and expanding, now serving as the platform for the Literary Book Club and Literary E-Zine, as well as other disciplines and ideas housed under the Content Umbrellas. It has new features, including "instant assignments" and flexible scaffolded helps for struggling writers.
• SharePoint: This tool has proven to be a heavily-used and successful platform in the support of workflow and collaboration, second only to email in total storage and volume. Available now for your students and classes, it provides a number of tools in a secure networked environment.
• The Video-Linked Classroom: This "real time" distance learning option has no regular classroom pressures this year, freeing up the equipment for events and connections for your students! Connect across the district or across the globe, for real time and full-quality interactive videoconferences!
• Fayette's I-School: This new capability is currently in pilot, with a full rollout scheduled within the next few weeks. Watch this one - its a comer! Student developed and maintained, and based on the Moodle platform, it provides a complete set of virtual tools in support of learning and instruction, including blogs, chat, online testing, forums, calendars, resource delivery and management, and a "turn it in" process for student assignments. Watch for a district-wide announcement!

We will be celebrating the use of these and other technology tools throughout the year.

TIPS welcomes new blogs from district technology resource teachers, members of the reconstituted Office of Instructional Technology, including...

- Julie Gaskin: Julie's responsibilities include STLP, as well as the new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Fair (previously the Tech Fair) and TEC Conference this coming June. STLP is providing the student support platform for Fayette's I-School. She also provides support of eWalk, software supporting administrative "learning walks."
• Diana Hendrix: Fresh from several videoconference experiences last year, Diana will be discussing that tool and other technology integration strategies in her blog. Diana is also the elementary school contact, and provides support for GRADE and Diebels programs.
• Rosemary McFarland: Rosemary, a veteran of Fayette County educational technology, will be periodically giving information and updates on the world of online assessment. She provides technical and instructional support for Read 180. Rosemary is based at Tates Creek High, but supports other schools as well.
• Guyanne Vaughan: Guyanne is our i-SAFE manager this year, and will also be handling the Literary E-Zine, which moved to The Point this year. She's based at Southern Middle and is the contact for middle school support.

Of course, I remain the primary supporter and contact for the virtual tools mentioned above, and continue to support high schools in their general integration needs.

How to Request Help

If you want any of the district technology resource teachers to assist you with a project or even if you just have a question for us, there are two ways you can contact us. First, your school's STC is the main point of contact for everything related to technology, so tell your STC what you want and they can contact us. Another way is by using a new "help desk" that has just been established. To secure the services of any of the people above, place a "new item" on this entry form on the STC SharePoint space (login required from home).

Welcome to a new year! If you have questions, interests, or just want to make an observation, by all means leave a comment on this blog!

...for more, visit this blog at https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=10067

The Video-Linked

Sunday, September 02, 2007 7:28 AM: Videoconferencing comes of age!

Classroom

Videoconferencing, Live Streaming, and Internet 2 in Fayette County
...from the desk of Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin



For over 6 years, Fayette County has been able to serve students without access to some advanced courses through connections provided by videoconference equipment. Teachers at one high school were able to include students at another, and teach them in real time. With that program in dormancy, and with the recent expansion of bandwidth supplied by the Kentucky Education Network, this capability is now available for any classroom and any teacher throughout the district!

Continuing with this office's philosophy of empowering "end users" - you, the teachers and students of Fayette County - this equipment, and the resources and content providers it can be leveraged to connect to, is now available for checkout! Housed on SharePoint, the [home of the Video-Linked Classroom](#) includes a calendar of events, links to connection sites, and a whole lot more! The site also provides equipment and help for webcasting - live video streaming. Be sure to look at the Internet2 resources..Internet2 represents a network of content providers and high-speed connections which boosts the quality of the videoconference experience to the level enjoyed by universities and the private sector!

Periodically, there will be announcements of events and new content providers. Subscribe to this blog to keep up!

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=16775>



Intelligent Classrooms

Promoting the use of intelligent classroom tools and connecting them to your content.

...from the desk of Diana Hendrix, DTRT

Thursday, August 30, 2007 12:49 PM: Connecting Your Classroom to the World

This year we have a new and exciting way to involve all of your students in the classroom. The age of videoconferencing has arrived!

We have the capabilities now to connect ourselves up with other classrooms in the district. In the near future we will be able to connect to classrooms all over the U.S. and the world. So how does this fit into your curriculum?

Here are just a few hypothetical examples: Think about if you could link to your local history museum during your communities unit and have your 3rd grade students be able to ask questions to an expert, receive immediate feedback and not ever leave the classroom. What if you had an expert at the Field Museum in Chicago speak to your 7th grade students on the culture of ancient Greece while using artifacts from the museum and they could ask questions and get answers in real time? What if you had a teacher/actor who did a first person account of Leif Ericson? Now with this new technology your 5th grade class and several classrooms could experience this all at once and they never have to leave their own classroom.

If you are interested and would like to discuss how videoconferencing can be done in your classroom please contact either:

jeffery.jones@fayette.kyschools.us or diana.hendrix@fayette.kyschools.us

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=16514>

Student Technology Leadership Program

A discussion of STLP activities, issues, and projects in Fayette County Schools.



...from the desk of Julie Gaskin, District TRT

Monday, August 27, 2007 10:20 PM: Off To A Great Start!



The [Student Technology Leadership Program](#) (STLP) looks different at each school you visit but you will always see happy, productive students who are interested in technology and who care about one another. This is due, in great part to the wonderful, hard-working coordinators at each school. If you would like to participate in this project-based program,

please [contact me!](#)

Many of you know this is my first year to offer "It's About Kids" district support for STLP. We also have many new [school-based STLP coordinators](#). It would help greatly if those of you who have been doing this for a few years would add a comment with some advice or an idea for a project to help our "newbies" (which includes me!). To add a comment, click on the link at the bottom of this section and then click "comment" (login required).

We will have an STLP coordinators meeting on Thursday, September 6, in the library of Lafayette High School at 3:45 (Elementary) and 4:45 (Secondary). I hope to see all coordinators there for a concise, information-packed meeting!

Last, but not least, we would like to thank Paula Whitmer for the 9 years of superb leadership she provided to help our STLP grow into the incredible program it is today! We owe a lot to you, Paula! Best wishes in your new position with Title I. (Read [Paula's STLP blog](#) from previous years.)

Sharepoint - Content Management in Fayette County

A discussion of the district roll-out of the [Fayette County Intranet](#) using Microsoft's Sharepoint Services



...from the desk of Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin

Sunday, September 02, 2007 12:22 PM: SharePoint in 2007-08

SharePoint continues to be the most popular and heavily used technology besides email! When the hardware for this web resource was purchased, the Office of Educational Technology had the good sense to purchase something with 20 times the capacity of a normal computer. As of this writing, over 70% of that capacity has been used! If we were a bakery, and this was a delivery truck, we'd be doing a lot of business and putting a lot of miles on that truck!

Of course, that means the truck will require more attention, and since (unlike a bakery delivery truck) SharePoint's popularity isn't actually making Fayette County any more money, we're fighting to keep up. That is why we've been a bit slow upgrading to the latest version, and why there are a few things which are slowing things down a bit - especially for those who have already upgraded to Office 2007. If you're one of those lucky folks, some patience is required.



- **IE Crash Solved:** Thanks to Dave Carty and Mary Fakharpour in the Systems Support office, this nagging Office2007/SharePoint conflict has been patched, and you should no longer be having this problem. If you are, contact your School Tech Coordinator (STC), and tell them to alert the systems support technician.
- **Outlook interface NOT solved:** If you're a SharePoint administrator using Outlook 2007, you no longer can use its address book to look up and add folks to your list of users in SharePoint. Of course, you can enter either their Fayette username or email address, and SharePoint will look him/her up for you. If you're really missing this tool, or regularly use email distribution lists which make hand-entering a hardship, either find a computer still running Office 2003, or ask me and I'll handle it.

Don't forget that all technical problems should be posted in Feedback/Help, linked from every SharePoint site. There are lots of discussion forums, FAQs, and documents there. Also in Feedback/Help, we're still updating templates, and will be posting new ones as they're completed.

If you're a classroom teacher wanting to use this resource for your classroom, and you can afford to wait a few weeks, hold off until Fayette's I-School is up and running. It will offer a lot of what SharePoint will do, plus a lot of other things, and it's better suited for classroom use! But if SharePoint is what you want, by all means, ask, and you shall receive!

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=1621>

Fayette's iSchool - The blog for FCPS's Moodle Project

Watch this space for updates and announcements connected to this powerful resource!

...from the desk of Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin

Friday, August 03, 2007 12:19 PM: I-School is in pilot!

Congratulations to Tushar Patel for his great Moodle (*Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment*) deployment for PLD last year! Tushar's project is now serving as our pilot for [Fayette's I-School](#), with limited space until the full deployment early in September.

What is Fayette's I-School? Good question!

- **It's online content management.** Think SharePoint. You can use spaces there for sharing documents, discussing, scheduling, and lots of other things.
- **It's an online classroom.** Think BlackBoard. You can submit resources, assign discussion groups, submit assignments, maintain a calendar - in short, everything you do in your classroom, only virtually!
- **It's a website.** That means it's available 24/7/365, just like any other web presence!

This project will be district supported, but students will install, maintain, and customize the site using open source tools available for free on the Internet. If you're a student with Web, PHP, MySQL, or related skills, and would like to be involved in this project, we'd love to hear from you!

Since it is pilot, it's currently only available to a very limited number of virtual classroom spaces. If you want a space for yourself, [contact me](#), or leave a comment below! When this project is fully deployed, we'll be scheduling presentations and training.

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=15975>

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...from the desk of

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=16412>



The contents of this website are intended for the enhancement of instruction only. "It's About Kids"