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



TIPS - The Technology Feed Vol 7, #6 (February 2008)

...maintained by Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin, last updated 2/4/2008

TIPS - the Technology Office newsletter - is a feed of ideas and instructional support for Fayette County teachers, delivered through blogs maintained by Technology Resource Teachers in the Office of Instructional Technology. See the complete list of archives in <http://teach.fcps.net/tips/>.

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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

Thursday, January 31, 2008 4:39 PM: Megaconferences, robots, Mars explorations...it's a busy February!

Here's what's happening in Technology this month.

Videoconferencing will be quite active!

- Sitting Bull/Buffalo Bill - Squires/Athens/Rosa Parks (Classrooms TBA), 2/1/2008 9:30 AM
- NASA SpaceBots with Jennifer Humble/PLD, 2/12/2008 9:30 AM
- [Megaconference, Jr.](#) - Leanna Prater/Stonewall, 2/21/2008 12:20 PM
- Big Blue/Inflatable Wing, NASA/UK - Jennifer Humble/PLDHS, 2/27/2008 10:30 AM

PD Opportunity:
[Sign up](#) to learn about videoconferencing in Fayette County - PD class on Thursday, Feb. 14th!

Don't forget...you can [watch the calendar](#) (SharePoint, requires login) for new and later events. There are sites linked there to help you find events your kids can join! Contact us if you want this wonderful capability in your classroom, or if you would like to watch any event!

STEM Fair is coming! Registration for this event has passed, but put this on your calendar:

- **When:** March 15, 9-11.
- **Where:** Paul Laurence Dunbar High School
- **What:** Presentations, showcases, videos, digital art, and projects - student-generated, and on display!
- **Why:** Because Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) are important growth areas for our students, and our nation!

See the [STEM Fair](#) website for details.

Fayette's iSchool continues to expand, with new virtual classrooms for...

- Shaun Owens, BSHS Band
- Ronni Tallent, HCHS Mathematics
- Rita Stamey, MLK Jr. Humanities
- Stephen Holthaus, LMS Podcasting

PD Opportunity:
[Sign up](#) to learn about Fayette's iSchool in Fayette County - PD class on Wednesday, Feb. 20th!

...and a host of other courses. Our course count is now 90, with over 1,100 course participants!

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

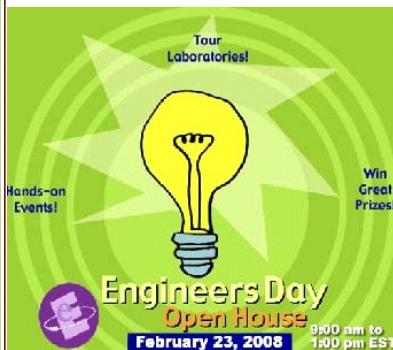
Announcements

Technology News



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

Wednesday, January 09, 2008 11:27 AM: UK Engineers Day



Engineers Day
 University of Kentucky
 College of Engineering
 Open House

February 23, 2008
 9:00 - 1:00


An excellent opportunity for students to see technology in action. The Open House offers multiple contests, events, prizes, and exhibits. The [website for this event](#) is currently under construction but you have only to look at [pictures from past events](#) to know all students would enjoy this excursion!

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=18376>

Internet Safety

Information regarding digital

Tuesday, January 29, 2008 10:14 AM: I-Safe Presentations Team Up With Channel 13

citizenship in our schools.

 ...from the desk of
 Leanna Prater

Welcome Back. Stu's Crew and The Mayors Youth Council will be teaming with Channel 13 to begin their second round of I-safe Presentations. Channel 13 will be interviewing students in Stu's Crew and The Mayors Youth Council about their involvement with the program and how they have contributed to the improvement of keeping their younger peers safe on-line. Students in the Middle Schools will be interviewed as well to gain their opinions and insights into these presentations. Stay tuned to Channel 13 for these interesting insights.💡

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=16411>

The Video-Linked Classroom

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

Thursday, January 31, 2008 4:51 PM: It's a Megaconference!



On Thursday, February 21st, come visit us as we celebrate Stonewall Elementary's participation in Megaconference Jr.! Leanna Prater's students will be presenting on their participation in the US Regions Project.

What's a Megaconference (besides being a really big conference)? Well, it's big in several ways...

I want to watch! Contact [Jeffrey Jones](#) at the Office of Instructional Technology to reserve your seat!

- **In scale:** Over 180 schools will be participating in this event, spanning several continents!
- **In content:** K-12 students will be presenting on a variety of subjects and issues, from all grade levels and disciplines.
- **In time:** The conference will be live from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Eastern Time.
- **In technology:** The conference takes place in real time solely through videoconference, meaning that these schools and students can talk to each other and watch each presentation from their own classroom, or wherever their videoconference equipment resides.


From the [Megaconference Jr. website](#):

"...Megaconference Jr., now in its fifth year, is a project designed to give students in elementary and secondary schools around the world the opportunity to communicate, collaborate and contribute to each other's learning in real time, using advanced multi-point video conferencing technology. Presenters design and conduct videoconference-based presentations and activities focused on both academic and cultural issues. Participants are able to address questions to presenters and to collaborate with geographically diverse peers in collaborative learning activities, thus building international cultural awareness...."

Stonewall's presentation begins at 12:20 p.m. Come watch! This event will be [webcast](#) as well....

Saturday, February 02, 2008 9:23 AM: Equipping your school to join the Video-Linked World

By now, nearly a third of the schools in Fayette County have participated in some videoconference event. All such events require reserving equipment with the Office of Instructional Technology, having that equipment delivered and tested, and then getting help on the day of the event. But connections are actually quite easy to make! If your school had the equipment on site, testing and event-day help do not require anyone on-site, and there is no set-up - just reserve a time and go! Here are the costs of the equipment needed to support this at your school.

What	Cost	Where to get it
 <p>Polycom or Tandberg Codec: This is the heart of a videoconference system, and its most expensive component. Tandberg systems are slightly cheaper, and much more portable, whereas Polycoms include a subwoofer for improved sound. Cheaper codecs are available with slightly reduced capabilities. [Update: Polycom now makes a "subwoofer-less" codec at a reduced price.]</p>	\$6,000, more or less	AT&T - contact our office for information
 <p>Flat Panel Display: This is where your school can start to support videoconferencing - the District office has only one for check-out, whereas there are 7 codecs. An ordinary television can be used, but it is rare for a school to have one large enough. Buy any consumer flat panel television - it should be at least 40", and LCD is preferred (though plasmas will work).</p>	\$800 and up, depending on quality, size, and brand.	Wherever TVs are sold - the state contracted supplier is Douglas Electronics Co. Inc. (DecoAV)
 <p>TV Cart or Mount: We encourage schools to buy carts, and permanently mount the flat panel display on it. This allows the system to be rolled into any classroom. Get the heaviest cart you can find, and the shorter the better (for stability). If you intend to support videoconferencing in one location</p>	Any office supply house	Cart: \$250, Mount: \$80-\$250 (depending on flexibility desired)

	<p>only (the library, for instance), a wall mount is a good idea. Cheaper wall</p>	
	<p>Codec Mount: Flat panel displays have no flat surface at the top on which to set your codec. This provides that surface, and doubles as a possible wall mount for the codec.</p>	<p>AT&T, CDW-G \$115</p>
<p>Cables: You will need at least one cable to connect the video feed from your codec to your TV. Which cable(s) depends on which codec and which TV you use. Contact us for help.</p>		<p>Any office supply house \$30-\$60</p>

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

Announcements

Technology News

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

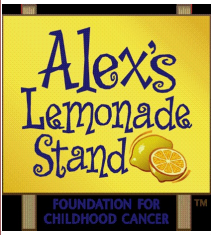
Tuesday, January 08, 2008 10:17 AM: UK BEST: Building Engineering, Science, and Technology - Summer 2008



[UK BEST: Building Engineering, Science, and Technology](#)
 June 8 - 12, 2008
Deadline for application: March 1, 2008
 Cost: \$350 (Scholarships available)

Twenty students who complete the tenth grade by spring 2008, will be selected to attend this one-week residential program which provides students a pre-engineering curriculum. Project based activities include model scale car design and testing, model scale roller coaster assembly, micro electronics construction, composite material design/construction/testing, bridge design/construction/testing and practice public infrastructure consensus procedure. The program is especially designed for students interested in fields such as health care, the environment, transportation and energy, and who want to will help restore our nation's global leadership in engineering and technology. Please visit the UK website for more information: <http://www.engr.uky.edu/outreach/BESHomepage.htm>

Monday, December 17, 2007 9:38 AM: Video Conference: Alex's Lemonade Stand 2008



April 8 - April 24, 2008
 Kids helping Kids Make a Difference! In celebration of Global Youth Services Day, join other schools across the country as they host lemonade stands to raise money for pediatric cancer research and participate in other related projects. Schools will collaborate with each other through a blog, a special "kick off" videoconference spirit rally and closing project collage videoconference event.

Read more at www.magpi.net/programs/alexlemonade.html and decide if you would like to participate in the video conference or webstream. Please contact [Jeff Jones](#) if you are interested in participating.

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=18376>

Intelligent Classrooms

Promoting the use of intelligent classroom tools and connecting them to your content.
...from the desk of Diana Hendrix, DTRT

Wednesday, January 16, 2008 10:46 AM: Using Examview and your CPS system!

Many of you have already purchased Examview software for your schools. If not, you may be asking, what is Examview? It is software that allows you to make quizzes and tests from a content CD provided with the teacher's copy of many of your adopted textbooks. A teacher is then able to print quizzes, tests, worksheets, etc. from these questions, and use them to assess their students.

Now you can load these quizzes directly into your CPS system! What a great way to easily make CPS quizzes using content directly from your textbook. To find out more please contact Diana Hendrix at 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

Friday, February 01, 2008 8:18 AM: Lego Robotics State Competition - Bowling Green, Kentucky



Millcreek Elementary and Stonewall Elementary participated in the Lego Robotics State Competition on January 19 in Bowling Green, Kentucky. The competition involved 3 robot runs, a student presentation, and a student interview. The results have not been released but our students represented their schools and district well. We are very proud of them!



...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=16314>

3 Minute Solutions!

Each month new computer application tips will be added.

...from the desk of Diana Hendrix, DTRT

Wednesday, January 16, 2008 10:08 AM: Computer Energy Conservation Tip!

Do you want to give a helping hand to the environment? What can you do? Use www.blackle.com instead of Google. Blackle is a new search website that acts exactly like Google. Research shows that darker screens on computers save more energy than the brighter screens. Thanks to Pam Draper and SCAPA for this energy solution! Give it a try.

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=19927>

Author's / Illustrator's Corner

A web connection to children's authors and illustrators.



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

Tuesday, January 08, 2008 12:25 PM: Mercer Mayer



Author and illustrator Mercer Meyer, offers Little Critter's Official Website where you can learn more about Mercer Mayer, work in interactive games, print coloring pages and activities, and much more. I especially liked his songs with the song sheets. Website: <http://www.littlecritter.com>

You may also want to check out Mercer Mayer's webcast of his September 29, 2007 presentation at the National Book Festival which has been posted by the Library of Congress. It's a fun 32 minutes (sound stops 7 minutes into the video for about 45 seconds).

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=18372>



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