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



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

...maintained by Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin, last updated 3/3/2008

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

Sunday, March 02, 2008 1:15 PM: Who's building the New Internet?

According to the Associated Press story [Technology Demands Ed. Changes](#) (published in the online [Teacher Magazine](#)), teens and tweens are maintaining their edge over their parents in the use of online resources. But with the preponderance interactive web tools, younger folks are not just using the Internet, *they're building it*: "...An estimated 64 percent of those ages 12 to 17 have created some form of online content. While only 8 percent of adults have created a blog, 28 percent of teens have...And while 27 percent of teens have created or worked on their own Web pages, 14 percent of adults have."



But that's not the really remarkable and revealing part of this story. The stereotypical Internet user is the white affluent adolescent male. But according to this story, "...girls dominate the blogosphere and photo postings." Even more telling, "...Teens from single-parent or lower-income households are more likely to blog than affluent teens in more traditional households."

What does this mean for education?

- **The Digital Divide is being bridged in our absence!** While interactive Web tools such as courseware/content management systems continue to be important to university studies and jobs, students are learning these skills from each other. Absent from this learning are the important issues of Internet safety, copyright, and appropriate use. Our students will, in many cases, leave us with MySpace being their model for interactive Web use!
- **Students view school learning as marginal and irrelevant.** Imagine this - a student with an interest in music produces a popular blog, or a Wikipedia page, on a related topic. *That student is published!* If his music teacher has never even been to a blog, or Wikipedia, what effect would that have on the student's attitude towards learning opportunities in school?
- **A massively motivating instructional resource is missed.** Students are contributing to Web content any time, day or night, using a variety of tools. Compare this to the teacher who complains that her students never do any homework!

Online interactive tools are not a silver bullet - they will not miraculously turn a terrible writer into a great one, nor will it transform a marginalized student into an achieving one. But these tools have an important place in the process of constructing knowledge. As the article states, "...content creators aren't so wrapped up in the virtual world that the real world suffers — they're more likely than their less-creative peers to participate in school clubs and to hold a part-time job." Our young understand that these tools aren't simply playgrounds or meeting places - they're important parts of an effective life, just as they can be an important part of successful learning.

Now, more than ever, tools like [The Point](#), [Fayette's iSchool](#), [Fayette County Schools Forums](#), and a massive number of other interactive online resources available on the open Internet, are a pivotal and important part of our lives as educators, and our ability to facilitate the construction of knowledge in our students.



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

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, February 25, 2008 12:03 AM: STEM Fair



STEM Fair
Saturday
March 15, 2008

Paul Laurence Dunbar High School
Gym, Auditorium, and nearby classrooms
Events: 9:00 - 11:00
Awards Ceremony: 11:30 - 12:30

Join us on Saturday, March 15 to celebrate students and their use of technology to support science, engineering, and mathematics. Students will be displaying their work - **videos, presentations, digital art, and interactive content**. Over 60 school exhibits from every Fayette County Public School will fill the Dunbar High School gym. For details, see the STEM website at <http://teach.fcps.net/stem>.

STLP State Championship

Registration deadline: Saturday, March 15, 2008

Competition: Tuesday, May 6, 2008 - Lexington Convention Center

Awards Ceremony: Wednesday, May 7, 2008 - Rupp Arena

Tuesday

11:00 Schools may enter and set up

12:00 Events begin

6:00 Food Court Closes

7:00 Events end



Wednesday

10:00 - 12:30 Awards Ceremony

In addition to the Showcase Events and live student Presentations (which were chosen at the Fall Competition), there will be ongoing live competitions and product competitions. Please check your State STLP Handbook for numerous opportunities your students have to participate. For those who would prefer not to compete, come and watch. There is plenty to see!

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

Author's / Illustrator's Corner

A web connection to children's authors and illustrators.

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

Sunday, February 24, 2008 5:05 PM: Bruce Blitz



Cartoonist, author and illustrator Bruce Blitz, offers Cartooning With Blitz, a website where you can learn more about Bruce Blitz, drawing cartoons, and his television show. I especially like the video clips that show step-by-step directions to draw 30 cartoon characters. Website: http://bruceblitz.com.

You may also want to sign up your class to participate in an interactive videoconference with Bruce Blitz on April 15, 2008, 10:00 - 11:15 (recommended for grades 3-5). Blitz will talk about being a cartoonist, demonstrate drawing cartoons, and answer questions from the videoconferencing audience. If participating in this video conference will help your students become more engaged with the Core Content, contact Jeff Jones (ASAP because spaces are limited) for help with reserving your spot and the appropriate equipment.

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

Announcements

Technology News

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

Sunday, March 02, 2008 3:05 AM: Free Online PD Plus \$300

Does high quality online professional development improve classroom instruction?

e-Learning For Educators is looking for teachers to participate in an online research project to answer the question posted above. This research will involve:



- 4th and 7th grade classroom teachers of English Language Arts
• 5th and 8th grade classroom teachers of Mathematics

Participating teachers will:

- receive \$300 stipend for successful completion of the study
• take 2 online teacher surveys
• administer 3 online student surveys (first survey by April 9, 2008)
• take 3 online PD courses over 3 semesters (if chosen for experimental group - control group may take the courses at the conclusion of the research study)
• receive 24 hours PD credit for each course completed (if approved by your school)
• receive \$50 if participant recruits another teacher to participate

For more information and application form: http://www.bc.edu/efe

4th and 5th Grade Teachers Contact: Sheralyn Dash, dashes@bc.edu, 617.552.6230

7th and 8th Grade Teachers Contact: Jessica Masters, jessica.masters@bc.edu, 617.552.3574

Monday, February 25, 2008 1:10 AM: Doodle 4 Google



Doodle 4 Google Contest
School registration deadline: March 28, 2008
Entries due (6 per school): April 12, 2008
Finalists announced: May 7, 2008
Online public voting: May 12 - 18, 2008
Winner announced: May 21, 2008

Students will be judged in the following brackets:

- Grades K-3
- Grades 4-6
- Grades 7-9
- Grades 10-12

The National Winner will have their winning doodle on the Google homepage on May 22, 2008. He/she will also win a \$10,000 college scholarship to be used at the school of her/his choice, a trip to the Googleplex on May 21, 2008, a laptop computer, and a t-shirt printed with his/her doodle. Google will also award the winner's school a \$25,000 grant towards the establishment/ improvement of a computer lab.

For more information: <http://www.google.com/doodle4google>

...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, February 20, 2008 11:52 AM: The Interactive Discovery Education Atlas

The interactive Discovery Atlas (from Discovery Learning) can be found on KET's EncycloMedia site. Once you are into the maps you can access video on culture, government, history and the natural world with almost any country in the world! Your students can see the world in videos produced by Discovery! A must-see resource for your classroom.



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

Podcasting on The Point

Use this blog to post media (sound, video, etc.). Be sure to use the scaffold!

...from the desk of Leanna Prater

Thursday, February 28, 2008 1:19 PM: Vodcasting as an Instructional Tool

Imagine your usual classroom instruction now being delivered via a Vodcast. You are now free to spend more actual classroom time on practical hands-on applications, direct problem solving or labs. That is exactly what is happening at Woodland Park High School. They call their model Pre-Vodcasting. Their Vodcasts are assigned as homework. The next day, they begin with a warm up and a Q & A on the podcast. The remainder of the 90 minutes is then spent on guided practice, labs or one-to-one instruction with the students. When Jonathan Bergmann and Aaron Sams decided this is the way they would be teaching their chemistry classes, they wondered how it would be received by parents and students. Parents worried students would not listen or view the Vodcasts and their grades would fall. Since not all students had IPOD's, the Vodcasts were made accessible via Teacher Tube, Google Video, via computer (Media Player or I-Life) or were copied to DVD so all students would have access to a format in which they could access the lectures. The classes, which had previously been the more gifted students, were opened to wider selection of students. Bergmann and Sams found the latter group learned at a pace equal to the first group on the first test and better than the first group on the next test. Students preferred the vodcast method and their parents were amazed at how much more "homework" their children were doing.

Check out this amazing use of technology at

- Their Vodcasting site: <http://educationalvodcasting.com>
- News video on their work: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-1962958416930816240>

Their site includes a workshop they are hosting this summer with a link to how they created their Vodcasts, impressions of parents/students, and a link in the upper right corner that shows you an actual vodcast.

At Tates Creek High School, we have started using the IMAC to create enhanced podcasts with the IB Humanities classes. Students have selected music, artwork and have their scripts written. We hope to have them finished by the end of March.

If you would like more information on how to use podcasts or Vodcasts, just email and our office will be glad to assist.

Rosemary McFarland
DTRT Fayette Co
Rosemary.McFarland@fayette.kyschools.us

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

Saturday, March 01, 2008 10:04 AM: Getting Information Using SharePoint

SharePoint is a first-rate tool for getting information from people. Several departments are using it now, including Safe Schools (school-wide surveys of teachers and students), Title 1 (work documentation and tracking), Special Education (IEPs and intervention tracking), Videoconferencing (equipment check-out system and calendar), technology "Trouble Ticket" management, and a variety of other departments and applications.

- **The Survey:** This Web Part is perhaps the most flexible and useful way of asking questions, and getting answers.

- **Advantages:** Quick construction of a variety of question types, including checkboxes, pull-downs, short answers, and choices; SharePoint provides quick graphs of results, - for further processing, results are instantly exportable to Excel; you can hide respondents' names for anonymous surveying; you can make all entries invisible to participants, except their own;
- **Disadvantages:** Formatting of questions is limited - things may not appear as you expect; individual response printing is crude.

- **InfoPath:** This is actually an Office document tool, but it works great within SharePoint. You create a form template with InfoPath, and then use it to create a form library within your SharePoint site. Respondents create a new version of the document with information they enter.

- **Advantages:** Formatting is much more "Word-like," with lots of fixed formatting options; there are a lot wider range of input options than Surveys, and choices and drop-downs can be pulled from existing data sources elsewhere; you can quickly and easily disseminate input in one part of the form to other parts using simple rules; InfoPath documents can also be emailed for completion; templates can be saved locally, and deployed instantly wherever they're needed; since InfoPath is a powerful data gathering tool, it will grow as you grow.
- **Disadvantages:** Since InfoPath is its own software, some learning is required; anyone filling out an InfoPath form in SharePoint must have InfoPath (or other XML processor) installed on their computer - it is a default part of an Office install, but not everyone has installed it.

- **Calendars, Lists, other Web Parts:** All of these can be used as a way to get information from people.

There are too many of these options to list them all here.

- **Advantages:** Integration within SharePoint is the simplest; "Views" management provides for a variety of report-out filters.
- **Disadvantages:** Web Parts are pre-constructed, so they generally aren't very flexible; you can create a custom list, but management of list templates requires SharePoint Administration help, and there is a learning curve; access to data is limited, and visibility to other entries other than your own can't be turned off.

- **Simple Document Delivery:** This is the simplest, and hence the most popular way of getting input from your audience. It uses document libraries as a way of posting template forms in Word or Excel. Users simply open the template, fill it out, save to a new file name, and upload the results back to the same or a different document library.

- **Advantages:** Almost everybody knows how to prepare and add to Word and Excel documents - nothing new to learn; format is very easy to control, and print-outs look as you'd expect.
- **Disadvantages:** Nothing is saved as data, hence the results of gathering information this way have to be accumulated and processed by hand; Word and Excel documents which comfortably accept additions without changing the format tend to be difficult to construct; saving, managing, and securing documents uploaded this way tends to be more awkward to manage.

Contact me if you have any data gathering needs, and I'll be happy to help you select and construct the best tool for you.

Documents and Lists Create Site Settings Help

Foundation Safe Schools Student Surveys
BSHS: New Item

Save and Close | Go Back to Survey

Gender *

Male

Female

Grade: *

6th

7th

Form1 - Microsoft Office InfoPath

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Table Help



FAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
701 East Main Street - Lexington, Kentucky 40502
Special Education Office (859) 381-4000 Fax (859) 381-4743
NOTICE OF PROPOSED/REFUSED ACTION
CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Date: []

Student Name	Student ID #	Birthdate	Gender	Ethnicity
			[Select...]	[Select...]
School of Attendance	School of Residence	Grade		
Address	Phone Num			

Athens-Chilesburg Elementary
Technology Troubles: New Item

Save and Close | Go Back to List

Athens-Chilesburg Elementary
Technology Troubles

Select a View

- All Tasks
- My Tasks
- Due Today
- Active Tasks
- By Assigned To
- Sorted by Date
- Not Completed

Use the Tasks list to keep track of work

[New Item] [Filter] [Edit in D...]

Problem and Room Number	Created By
Room 127-mouse button not working	Linebaugh, Jennifer
computer 123	Shew, Melissa
Document Camera Room 128	Panaik, Jennifer

You may add HTML for [2] Normal

Documents and Lists Create Site Settings Help

Special Education Forms

Booker T. Washington Academy

New Document | Upload Document | New F...

Type	Name
	Booker T. Washington Academy January 31
	Booker T. Washington Academy February 14

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

Watch this space for

Saturday, March 01, 2008 9:24 AM: The Internet School - Some Ideas and Updates

FAQs/Support site continues to expand!

New additions to the [FAQs, Documents, How-Tos/Teacher and Student Support](#) site include...

updates and announcements connected to this powerful resource!

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

- Teacher, Student and Guest FAQs,
- A Technical Help Forum, where you can post questions and concerns,
- Complete documentation for teachers on how to get started in iSchool, including an online form you can use to request a class,
- A quick "Joining iSchool and a Course" handout for students, to help them join a class you create,
- Announcements of new features, configuration changes, and other user information.

Fayette County's Forums return...as a classroom tool!

Although the separate forum system still exists (see "Forums" linked at right), almost all online discussion has moved into Fayette's iSchool. This has many advantages:

- Multiple forums for the same group of students,
- Ranking and grading as assessment tools,
- A variety of formats, including...
 - "Q and A" - this format requires a student to post to the forum before s/he can see anyone else's response.
 - "Each person posts one discussion" - here, each student can start only one thread, but all can respond to any thread.
- Support for groups (each group has its own forum),
- An array of classroom-supporting tools in addition to forums.

Of course, if you want a general public, system-wide, or school-wide forum, the forum system here is still your best choice.

Presentation Tools

Now, posted within FAQs/Support are a PowerPoint, and a simple one-page flier, you can use to present to your own school, department, or other group. Contact us if you need assistance!

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

Internet Safety

Information regarding digital citizenship in our schools.



...from the desk of Leanna Prater

Monday, February 25, 2008 11:06 AM:

Welcome Back. Stu's Crew and The Mayors Youth Council will be teaming with Channel 13 to begin their third and final 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>

Intelligent Classrooms

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

...from the desk of Diana Hendrix, DTRT

Wednesday, February 20, 2008 10:39 AM: KET Resources and Encyclomedia

If you have not been to <http://www.KET.org> lately you are missing some great on-line resources!

The "Arts Toolkit" link includes new online resources not in the kit, find them here: <http://www.ket.org/artstoolkit/general/multi.htm>

The "Electronic Field Trips" link has a wonderful new trip on Fort Harrod and Fort Boonesborough. There is an online virtual trip that includes audio that takes the students on the routes taken into Kentucky to establish each of the forts!

Take a look here: <http://www.ket.org/trips/forts/virtual/>

Take advantage of the many virtual fieltrips offered for K-12!!

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



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