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



TIPS - The Technology Feed Vol 8, #1 (September 2008)

...maintained by Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin, last updated 9/2/2008

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, August 28, 2008 1:46 PM: Welcome to Another School Year!

We're under way!

As we begin another school year, some old friends have moved on, and some friends and faces are back! 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.

TIPS, the educational technology E-Zine, enters it's 7th 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.

- **Fayette's iSchool:** The virtual classroom has arrived, with a vengeance! Now, with over 300 online course presences and nearly 3,000 active users, students can do work and interact online like never before. Watch the "Blogging Fayette's iSchool" for details on this powerful platform.
- **The Point:** Now in its 4th year, this blogspace's activity level is growing and expanding.
- **SharePoint:** This tool is expanding rapidly, 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 includes regular course offerings connecting classrooms, as well as content and connection experiences delivered to your students across town, or the world!

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

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...

- **Greg Drake:** Greg is the Coordinator of Instructional Technology- our boss! He joins the blogosphere this year with an entry on [reading online](#).
- **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 iSchool.
- **Diana Hendrix:** Included in Diana's new responsibilities this year are the use of "Smart Classroom" tools. Read about that in her [Intelligent Classrooms](#) blog.
- **Leanna Prater** returns to our office this year. Along with some wonderful projects, she'll be riding herd over Internet Safety training. Watch her [Internet Safety blog](#) for updates and additions.
- **Jamie Burch** also returns to our office, bringing with her direct experience of the use of virtual tools with elementary kids. Look at her [The Virtual Elementary Classroom](#) blog for lots more!
- **Jeffrey L. Jones:** Besides being the editor of TIPS, I coordinate the various virtual connections platforms - this blog space, iSchool, videoconferencing, and webcasting, to name a few. I also continue to support high schools in their general integration needs.



The Instructional Technology Team
Back: Leanna Prater, Greg Drake, Jamie Burch
Front: Jeffrey L. Jones, Julie Gaskin, Diana Hendrix

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. Of course, all of the above folks are in the global email directory, and they maintain office and phone presence at IAKSS. Let us know how we can help you!

Announcements:

- **The Fayette County Tech Academy** is the latest initiative from our office. Join us to look at technology integration strategies in support of specific content interests. See [Leanna's blog](#) on this for details.
- **KYVS's eLearning Ky Open for Business!** Unfortunately, these wonderful online professional development courses are no longer free (a casualty of these tight budget times), but the courses are

worth it! Click the title to go there. The deadline for registration has been extended.

- Watch [Fayette County's PD menu](#)...for future PD offerings on Fayette's iSchool, Videoconferencing, Web Pages, Office 2007, and other tech interests.

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

Using Common Technology Resources to Improve Reading

(Personal blog)



...from the desk of
Greg Drake

Friday, August 29, 2008 5:05 PM: Using Common Technology Resources to Improve Reading

Take a look at yourself. You're sitting at your computer right now, reading this online. Chances are you do a lot of your reading online. Your students are the same way. In fact, in a study by the Kaiser Family Foundation, children 8 to 18 years old were found to spend an average of 1 hour, 41 minutes per day online in 2004. That's up from 46 minutes in 1999.

Kids these days read a lot! But most of what they read isn't out of a traditional book, magazine, newspaper, or other print medium. That creates a great opportunity for educators to promote better reading! Since kids are already avid online readers, we just need to gear more of our instruction toward online media. That means making better use of the Internet and other electronic resources we already have in classrooms.

The possibilities for incorporating online content into reading are nearly limitless. Here's one example from a publication called *News Wire*. "Utilizing one of the many 'advice columns' on the Internet (e.g., gift-giving, time management, gardening), the teacher pre-selects some appropriate questions for his or her students to respond to... Students research their question topics online..., then play the role of advice-giver, and write a solution for the questioner." (SEIR*TEC, 2003)

An activity like that would require students to select appropriate sources of information on a given topic, read for details related to that topic, determine the credibility of the sources (looking for accuracy and lack of bias), determine what parts of the information they read relate most directly to their question, and write a response to the question.

Most of the reading (and writing) strategies in that activity are similar to the strategies we already teach. But there are some differences to consider. For example, we're used to teaching reading in a linear fashion – we begin at the beginning and end at the end. But online reading isn't linear. Most online material has hyperlinks to related resources. Students may begin reading about one topic but end up branching out to so many related topics that the information they were originally looking for gets lost. So we have to intentionally teach students how to use hyperlinks to supplement what they're reading while maintaining their original focus.

The digital world already has our kids' attention. It's up to us to tap the wealth of information they're already paying attention to and use it to help them become better readers. For more information about online reading, see [Reading on the Internet: The Link Between Literacy and Technology](#)

SEIR*TEC. (2003). *Volume 6, Number 1*. Retrieved 8 29, 2008, from News Wire:
<http://www.seirtec.org/publications/NewsWire/>

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=28775>

The Technology Academy

Weaving technology into instruction



...from the desk of
Leanna Prater

Friday, August 29, 2008 9:47 PM: Add More Rigor and Relevance to Your Classroom Activities

The district is offering a series of Technology Academies this year with a focus on incorporating technology as a way to help you boost student achievement with engaging activities that challenge your students with real world application of knowledge.

The academies will be:

September 10th 1:00 - 3:00 at IAKSS Annex Room 306
(It will be up to the school to provide subs for this date)

September 15th 4:30-6:00 (Location to be determined)

September 25th 3:45-5:15 (Location to be determined)

The Academies are designed for small teams of 2 to 5 teachers to work together. Each team will work on a lesson that you plan to teach within the next month or so. To apply, please go to the SharePoint link below and fill out the online application form. You'll be asked for the following information:

- Name of team leader
- Names of team members
- School
- Grade(s)
- Content area(s)
- Big idea from combined curriculum document. You'll be asked to visit the KDE website for this document. You can find that by [clicking here](#).
- Learning outcomes
- When you plan to teach this topic
- Any information we need to know to prepare for your group. (optional)
- Any technology resources you already have at your school that you would like us to incorporate. For example, let us know if you have certain hardware like SmartBoards or certain software like Inspiration that you want to be sure and incorporate. (optional)

We will review all applications and let you know by:

For the September 10th Academy: September 3rd

For the September 15th Academy: September 10th

For the September 25th Academy: September 19th

[Click here to fill out the application](#)

Once in SharePoint; click "Respond to this Survey"

Participation is limited.

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=28867>

Student Technology Leadership Program

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



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

Sunday, August 31, 2008 11:15 PM: STLP Kickoff



The Student Technology Leadership Program is getting ready for another super year. If you would like to volunteer your support or recommend a student for this program, please contact the STLP coordinator at your school. If I can help, just drop me a

line: julie.gaskin@fayette.kyschools.us



★ If you missed Laura Asher's State Championship winning video, check it out:

["Things Not Seen" Scenes](#)

🌐 The STLP Kickoff meeting for coordinators is September 3, 2008, 4:30, at Picadome Elementary. We'll discuss how Fayette's STLP is going green by using InfoPath for our forms and Elaine Harrison, State STLP Coordinator, will be available to answer questions and help us get off to a wonderful start!

💡 If you are reading this in TIPS, click the link below to reach the original blog location so you can see the comments that have been added and post your own.

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

Intelligent Classrooms

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



...from the desk of
Diana Hendrix,
DTRT

Thursday, August 21, 2008 3:15 PM: Welcome Back!

Another school year and our classrooms are becoming more "intelligent" with all the new technology available. You might say, "intelligent classroom" what is that? Will it think for me or teach my class? The answer is yes and no. Most of our schools have pieces of the "Intelligent Classroom" available to you right now and you may not be aware of what those pieces are and how to put them together "intelligently". This space will bring you new information each month on the different pieces available and how to use them to transform your classroom into a "Smart Classroom".

I am Diana Hendrix, a DTRT for the last 9 years and a FCPS teacher for 24. Wow, it is hard for me to believe. I have met many of you through the years during my various positions in Special Education, Science Resource, as a Computer Lab teacher, and Regular Elementary Education. I look forward to exploring the "Intelligent Classroom" with you this year!!

Tuesday, September 02, 2008 9:27 AM: Piece #1: Interactive Whiteboards

At one time all schools were given a smartboard and hopefully you still have at least that one available. Many schools have purchased other boards such as Promethean, IBID, and Interwrite. They all function much the same way being that the most important thing they bring to your classroom is the ability for your students to interact with your computer by turning your Interactive Whiteboard into a giant computer that you can click and drag with your finger, thus accommodating your tactile learners as well as your visual learners.

But the best thing about the Smartboard is the Smart Notebook software that you can download onto your computer, free of charge. It allows you to create unique, challenging and engaging lessons to use with your Smartboard.

If you have not upgraded your notebook software in a long time it is well worth upgrading to the brand new version 10!! It is awesome and can be used on your old boards as well as your new ones. Go to <http://www2.smarttech.com/st/en-US/Support/Downloads/SBS/NBSv10WinEval.htm> to download for your PC. This time however you must have a product key code to activate. In order to do this you must go to your Smart product and look for the tag that has the SN # for your board or your airliner pad. Any Smart product will do. Once you enter this in they will send you an email with your code, then proceed to download!

If you need any help once you do this, please contact me and I will come out and help you anyway that I can. Email me at: diana.hendrix@fayette.kyschools.us

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

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

Watch this space for updates

Tuesday, September 02, 2008 12:50 PM: iSchool is underway!

Thanks to Tushar Patel (PLDHS graduate, and the original designer of this system), Fayette's iSchool is up to Moodle Version 1.8. "Why should I care about that," you might ask. Good question!

and announcements connected to this powerful resource!



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

- **A new, improved, interactive Assignment module!** Allow for multiple uploads and in-line teacher comments!
- **More flexible roles and rights!** You can make an iSchool "course" completely public, or completely private, or almost anything in between. There's even a new role - "non-editing teacher" - making it possible for you to include a university professor or community member, without worrying about whether they'll mess up your course!

Here are a few new services the Office of Instructional Technology are now able to provide.

- **New templates!** Take a look at our [template gallery](#) for courses we can create for you in a few minutes!
- **Course recovery.** If you do something terrible to your course, or something terrible happens to it that you didn't do, chances are we have a daily backup extending back several weeks! Send a note and let us know what happened, and when it was still good. We can even restore submissions from students!
- **Meeting places:** If you teach several courses, but would like to share some things between them...or if you want a class of yours to collaborate with another class at another school, that's a quick problem to solve! We'll create a "meta-course" - it's a new course, but instead of students, it has classes - any student in any class included in the meta-course listing is automatically enrolled.

Watch for new general iSchool PDs this month, and PDs on specific iSchool capabilities coming in October!

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

The Virtual Elementary Classroom

A place to showcase virtual activities in the Elementary Classroom.



*...from the desk of
Jamie Burch,
District TRT*

Wednesday, August 20, 2008 1:46 PM: Meet Jamie Burch

My name is Jamie Burch and I am returning to the Office of Instructional Technology this school year after being in the elementary classroom for three years. I have six years of elementary classroom experience and three years of Technology Resource Teacher experience with the district. I'm happy to be working with such a great group of people and enjoy my new responsibilities. I am quickly learning the ins and outs of iSchool, SharePoint and Video conferencing along with all the other TRT responsibilities. I love working with students and teachers and look forward to lots of technology integration opportunities in the classroom this year.

Last year, I created a hybrid classroom environment for my third grade students including Math and Social Studies content. The students had access to the online part of the course from home, school or anywhere they could access the Internet. The online part of the class was just an extension of what we were focusing on in the classroom. Students completed surveys, open response questions, and assignments online as well as participated in discussion forums about the topics we were studying at that time. They had immediate access to the grade book as well as the access to voice tools within the course. They really enjoyed participating in both the virtual classroom as well as the traditional classroom.

I was accepted to present on this hybrid classroom with a co-worker at both the Kentucky Teaching and Learning Conference in Louisville as well as the National Educating and Computing Conference in Texas. I was thrilled to show off what amazing work my students completed while in the hybrid environment.

I look forward to working with lots of new teachers this year. Have a great school year!

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=28445>

The Video-Linked Classroom

Videoconferencing, Live Streaming, and Internet 2 in Fayette County

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

Tuesday, September 02, 2008 10:07 AM: Welcome to the Fall!

There are lots of wonderful things happening in videoconferencing...

- **Calculus II returns to The Video-Linked Classroom!** Judi Day, Lafayette math teacher, has again volunteered to teach more than her own students, including 6 Tates Creek student via video link.
- **Kentucky joins the MAGPI Internet2 umbrella!** We now can access and leverage this wonderful collection of topical videoconference content. Contact us for details!
- **Milwaukee Public Museum's Passport Distance Learning Series** and Yates Elementary partner for the first event of the year! Native American history was the topic of this videoconference, with the museum supplying instructional materials and other content.
- **The Center:** Don't forget: to find content, schedule events, and reserve equipment, be sure to visit the SharePoint [Videoconferencing and Webcasting Center](#).



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



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