...the feed...

In this feed...

TIPS - The Editor's Desk (Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin)

Internet Safety (Leanna Prater)

Student Technology Leadership Program (Julie Gaskin, District TRT)

Fayette's iSchool - The blog for FCPS's Moodle Project (Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin)

The Video-Linked Classroom (Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin)

Video Conferencing Events, PD's and Collaborations (Jamie Burch, District TRT)

Announcements (Julie Gaskin, District TRT)

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

TIPS - The Technology Feed Vol 8, #5 (January 2009)

...maintained by Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin, last updated 1/7/2009

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/.
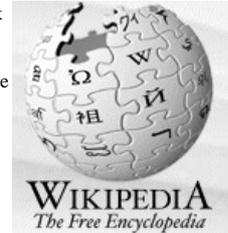
TIPS - The Editor's Desk

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

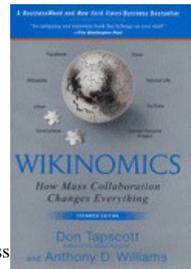### Wednesday, January 07, 2009 1:58 PM: Who Writes Wikipedia?

Thanks to Danville CIO Dianne Goodwin for the topic of this month's Editor's Desk Entry. She forwarded me a Henry Blodget editorial posted in his "Silicon Valley Insider" blog, which starts, "The bulk of Wikipedia is written by 1400 obsessed freaks who do little else but contribute to the site..." But the reality is very much more interesting. According to a serious bit of text/data analysis (analyzing who contributed what text rather than simple edit counts)...

- A single Wikipedia entry is actually the work of a few very interested individuals, who contribute the original page, and most of the content.
- Such participants contribute only a small number of entries, implying that they select their topics because of ability, experience, and interest. As such, they do not generally participate in other page development projects.
- The overwhelming majority of edits are done by a large body of heavy participants in the project, and these folks participate across the span of Wikipedia. However, their contributions are almost invariably formatting and organizational - they contribute very little original text and content themselves.

The implication is that Wikipedia has developed in much the same way that ordinary encyclopedias do - specialists write the content, and the editors handle the formatting, delivery, and other clerical tasks. However, there are still several major differences - scale is one, and self-selection of experts is another. The result of this design is that Wikipedia represents the single largest knowledge document on the planet, owing that growth and quality to the enthusiastic participation of thousands of interested individuals from across the globe, working for the love of their topics, or the project at large.

In a related issue, over the holidays I slogged through Don Tapscott and Anthony D. Williams' economic treatise Wikinomics, subtitled "How mass collaboration changes everything." Citing several business examples, the book discusses what happens in the business world when you recruit ordinary interested amateurs to help with research and development issues. As several business examples they cite illustrate, the results can far outstrip the capabilities of a corporate R&D department, both in scale and in quality.

To make this idea work, two things have to happen in the business culture...

1. The corporation has to be willing to share data and ideas - to tell what they already know publicly and freely.
2. The interested participants should be able to self-select, and be allowed to express their ideas freely.

Obviously, such collaboration and development processes have been greatly enhanced through the use of online tools, since the power of the Internet is, in no small part, the power of scale and interest illustrated by online projects like Wikipedia.

This month, the **Office of Instructional Technology** launches a related enterprise related to its online instructional platform, **iSchool**. One of the difficulties confronting teachers wanting to develop materials for online use (or anywhere else, for that matter!) is that it takes time and effort - time and effort in short supply in the age of high-stakes testing and other education pressures. We want to create a viable community of teachers willing to share **iSchool** units/lessons they have developed, collaborate in the development of new units/lessons, or simply have ideas and share materials. If you teach in Fayette County, and are interested in joining such a community, please email me and let me know! Our office will handle all the logistics and technical interests, and will be hosting meetings and development events. This **Community** will be, of course, based in **iSchool**. The **Community** will be teachers-only (you must request access to the **iSchool** site), but we will not refuse any request. (See this blog entry for more details.)

The first project for the new **iSchool Teacher Development Community** will be materials in support of Black History Month, coming up in February. Join us!

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

Internet Safety

Information regarding digital citizenship in our schools.

...from the desk of Leanna Prater

Wednesday, January 07, 2009 2:42 PM: Mentoring in the Middle Schools

6th grade students at Winburn Middle School and Morton Middle School have learned some eye opening facts about internet safety from our high school i-Safe mentors. Students from Henry Clay and Bryan Station High shared information with students on how to keep your personal information safe, you might not always be talking to who you think and how you need to "think before you post" anything online. Keeping yourself safe online can be as easy as reviewing what information you are sharing in your screen name, how many "friends" you have online that you know face to face and to never agree to meet an internet friend in person.

The mentors are really excited about visiting more middle schools in the weeks ahead.

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

Student Technology Leadership Program A discussion of STLP activities, issues, and projects in Fayette County Schools. *...from the desk of Julie Gaskin, District TRT*	**Wednesday, January 07, 2009 8:51 AM: STEM Fair 2009 Registration Open**

Registration Open
Showcase & Presentation Deadline:
January 31, 2009

STEM Fair
Saturday, March 14, 2009
Bryan Station High School
Public Hours: 9:00 - 11:00
Awards Ceremony: 11:30

Students and teachers are encouraged to participate in this celebration of student accomplishments in their use of technology to support science, engineering, and mathematics. Students have the opportunity to give presentations and display showcases at the fair. Prior to the fair, students may participate by submitting videos, technical writing, and interactive content for judging. Products will be displayed and winners will be announced at the fair.

The STLP Coordinator from each school is your contact who can help you with registration. If you need further help, please contact Julie Gaskin at julie.gaskin@fayette.kyschools.us . Check out the STEM website for more information: http://teach.fcps.net/stem/Default.htm

There will be a STEM Fair Informational Meeting to give an overview of STEM Fair requirements and help with registration. This meeting is open to all!

STEM Fair Informational Meeting
Monday, January 26, 2009
IAKSS, Annex Room 306
~~4:00 - 5:00~~
Starting time change: 3:45
Starting again: 4:30

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

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*	**Monday, January 05, 2009 4:47 PM: The iSchool Teacher Development Community**

iSchool, like any online resource, tends to be a bit labor-intensive. Most of the heavy users of this service work hard, and have a lot of sweat equity built into their courses. Of course, if we all work smart, and we're willing to share, we can all benefit from each other's work! "Many hands makes light work" is how the saying goes. To help encourage this process, the supporters of iSchool have begun a new service - **the iSchool Teacher's Development Community.**

How to join the community: This community is open to Fayette County teachers, and their collaborators, only. To join, send me an email (jeffrey.jones@fayette.kyschools.us). This course will *not* have open enrollment, so we'll handle enrollment by hand. We'll be sending out an invitation to all past participants in PD events, though any teacher who uses iSchool is welcome!

What will happen there: We're hoping this community will have several important functions...

- A place where unit/lesson construction can be discussed.
- A place where participants can offer to share any unit/lesson they may have developed.
- A launch pad for collaborative development of any unit/lesson which others can use.

Our first projects will be in anticipation of Black History Month, which is February. At least one project is slated to be underway shortly...we'd love you to participate! Let us know if you have any digital materials and resources, or whole units/plans which can be shared with others for use in iSchool.

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

The Video-Linked Classroom Videoconferencing, Live Streaming, and Internet 2 in Fayette County *...from the desk of Jeffrey L. Jones of Site Admin*	**Wednesday, January 07, 2009 2:39 PM: Course Scheduling, and the Video-Linked Classroom**

January heralds the beginning of a new year. For middle and high schools, it also heralds a new semester, and the beginning of the course selection process for next year. Typically, the sequence goes like this...

an initiative connecting the

- Department chairs/team leaders are contacted, and a slate of course offerings is created for next year.
- Counselors accumulate the course lists, and present this list in group and personal sessions to students.
- Students select their courses for next year, in collaboration with their parents.
- Scheduling counselors take these requests and construct a schedule for the next school year.

This process can be a logistic and organizational nightmare, where student, teacher, school, and staffing/resource issues all must be balanced. Amazingly, most folks get at least a piece of what they want. But, of course, since resources and time are not unlimited, there are always losers. One of the most frequent losers is the specialized areas, including AP courses, electives, and special areas such as world languages. Often such courses have to be left off the schedule due to insufficient enrollment or a lack of certified/trained teachers.

Although the **Video-Linked Classroom** cannot solve all such problems, this program can offer one alternative. A school offering such a course can serve students outside of its walls, in real time, through videoconference. Over the ten years of its existing, this program has served students taking Russian, Calculus, US Government, and Computer Science. There are organizational issues which come with offering a course in two schools simultaneously, but these issues can be overcome...if the Office of Instructional Technology knows early! If you think this program will help your school, department, or student, contact us early and we'll arrange everything!

But for now, just remember that, through this and other network-delivered resources, your school need not restrict itself to offering students only what your school can deliver. If your students want or need a course, we have a responsibility to see if we can arrange it. It is all about kids. Let us know how we can help!

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

Video Conferencing Events, PD's and Collaborations

Upcoming video conferencing events, PD's and collaborations from CILC, MAGPI and more.
...from the desk of Jamie Burch, District TRT

Wednesday, December 17, 2008 2:15 PM: Fiction Writers' Workshop for Grades 9 - 12

MAGPI k20 programs

FOCUS ON FICTION: A Pilot Project

Target Grade Levels: 9-12

Starting in January 2009, MAGPI's innovative "Creative Minds" series, in conjunction with the University of Delaware, will offer a special five-part creative writing workshop to a small, select group of high school students at 6-8 high schools this spring. Each month, award-winning young adult novelist (and Delaware native) Lara M. Zeises (Contents Under Pressure) will facilitate an hour-long videoconference targeting different aspects of writing and revising fiction. In addition, Ms. Zeises will moderate an online environment for program participants using a content management system (supported by the University of Delaware). She will post writing prompts, upload recommended reading lists, and use the system to communicate directly with your students. Additionally, the content management system will provide individual teachers with "virtual" space so that you can continue to work with your students in between the scheduled videoconferences through forums, etc.

Sound confusing? MAGPI and University of Delaware will host a training session for program participants during the Teacher In-Service Meeting on Thursday, January 15th, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. In addition to receiving technology instruction, you will have the opportunity to meet with Ms. Zeises, who will present an overview of the series and her vision for how the videoconferences can work in conjunction with independent classroom learning.

MAGPI and the University of Delaware are extremely excited about this pilot program, and hope you will be too!

Required Videoconference Seminars/Dates:

Teacher Professional Development Session
January 15, 2009 (3:30 - 4:30 p.m. ET)

Taking Stock of the Writer's Toolbox
January 30, 2009 (10:00 - 11:00 a.m. ET)

The What, the How, and the Why: Developing Plot, Character, & Theme
February 20, 2009 (10:00 - 11:00 a.m. ET)

Who Says What and Where: Point of View, Dialogue, and Setting
March 6, 2009 (10:00 - 11:00 a.m. ET)

Writing and Rewriting: an Overview of the Revision Process
April 24, 2009 (10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. ET)

Show Us What You Got: Group Sharing/Critiquing
May 15, 2009 (10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. ET)

MORE INFORMATION/REGISTRATION: http://www.magpi.net/programs/focusonfiction.html. Please note that participation is limited and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Registration closes on January 9, 2009.

Monday, January 05, 2009 8:27 AM: Upcoming CILC Opportunities

CILC
Center for Interactive
Learning and Collaboration

Content Provider Programs:

So You Know the U.S. Government? - by Ohio Historical Society
View short video by clicking on title.
Think your class understands the workings of the United States Government? In this game show style presentation we'll test and review your students' knowledge of the origins, structure, and responsibilities of our government. We'll test their knowledge of th...
Availability: By Request/On Demand ONLY
Audience: Education: Grade(s): 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Parent, seniors, Public Library: Library Patrons

Collaborations:

History Mystery
We are an 8th grade class that would like to partner with a classroom to provide a history mystery. The idea is that one class provides clues to a person, place, or thing to the other class. They then provide clues about their mystery. Students then have a ...
Status: Seeking Partners
Audience: Education: Grade(s): 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

...for more, visit this blog at https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=33972

Announcements	**Wednesday, January 07, 2009 3:15 PM: e-Learning Kentucky 09 Spring Online PD**
Technology News *...from the desk of Julie Gaskin, District TRT*	**e-LEARNING KENTUCKY** **KENTUCKY VIRTUAL SCHOOLS** **PD, TRAINING & COMMUNITIES** eLearning Kentucky is offering ten different 1+6 week online professional development courses for the Spring 09 semester. The registration fee for each course is $25.00. The registration buys a 1+6 week standards based, high quality, facilitated, and interactive online PD course. During these rough economic times, this is a great way to meet those PD requirements at a lower price. Registration is now open on a first come and first served basis. Please visit the KYVS website for more information on registration and courses being offered. *...for more, visit this blog at https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=18376*

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