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



New PD, meet the staff, VC authors, Internet Safety videocontest...it's TIPS for September, 2009-10

...maintained by Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin, last updated 10/1/2009

TIPS - The Technology Feed Vol 9, #1 (September 2009)

TIPS is a feed of technology integration ideas for Fayette County teachers, delivered through blogs maintained by Technology Resource Teachers. To see all editions (including pre-blog ones), visit our [old archives](#).

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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

Friday, August 28, 2009 11:15 AM: It's another school year!

Welcome back!

For the first time in recent memory, the staff of the Office of Instructional Technology hasn't changed! What does this mean? Our skills and support knowledge have enjoyed a year of uninterrupted growth, and you can expect a consistency of service! 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, is now in its 8th year! This collection of blog feeds from members of this office now has its own menu presence on *The Point*. A few of the issues are still housed as a traditional web e-zine - see the archives for links to these pre-blog editions.

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

- **Fayette's iSchool:** Now probably the biggest instructional technology resource in the district, this virtual classroom now supports over 600 virtual classroom presences and 9,000 registered users. The Teacher's iSchool Development Community is an active community of practice for teachers who want to share things they've developed for this platform. Watch the "Blogging Fayette's iSchool" for details.
- **The Point:** Now in its 5th year, this blogspace's activity level is enjoying a renaissance as teachers and students meet online to write and share.
- **SharePoint:** We've had an upgrade, and this professional workflow platform is expanding very quickly! Schools are using it for collaboration and distribution of materials, and a lot of IAKSS office use it for a wide variety of purposes.
- **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!
- **The Smart Classroom.** With Classroom Performance Systems ("clickers,"), interactive white boards, and tablets, these technologies are becoming more popular and common!

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

- **Greg Drake:** Greg is the Coordinator of Instructional Technology, and, besides his district and management responsibilities, will be in charge of the technology funding mechanism based on a renewed "Request for Proposal" (RFP) process.
- **Julie Gaskin:** Julie's responsibilities include [STLP](#), as well as the new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Fair (previously the Tech Fair) and IFL (Innovations for Learning - formerly TEC) Conference this coming June. She is also involved in special education forms and SharePoint support.
- **Diana Hendrix:** Besides her heavy commitment to videoconferencing, Diana supports "Smart Classroom" tools.
- **Leanna Prater** continues her support for [Internet Safety](#), which will sport a new video contest this year. She also coordinates the use of [robotics](#) in the classroom and STLP chapters.
- **Jamie Burch** co-directs the use of Fayette's iSchool (see her [The Virtual Elementary Classroom](#) blog), helps with [videoconference support](#), and handles a lot of general elementary school support issues.
- **Jeffrey L. Jones:** Besides being the editor of TIPS, I coordinate 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 school tech coordinator (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!

Professional Development: Two PD classes on Fayette's iSchool in late September are the first in our after-school offerings. See [Fayette County's PD menu](#) for dates and times, and future PD offerings.

Internet Safety

Monday, August 31, 2009 3:04 PM: Announcing Video Contest!

Information regarding digital citizenship in our schools.



...from the desk of
Leanna Prater

Schools are getting in gear to teach students important Internet Safety lessons! One way your students can use their knowledge of how to keep safe online is to enter our STLP Internet Safety Video Contest. So, get your creative wheels turning and grab that video camera! You could win a set of flip video cameras for your school! Winners will be announced at the 2009-2010 STEM Fair on March 6th!

Prizes:

- 1st Place Set of 10 Digital Flip Mini Camcorders**
- 2nd Place Set of 5 Digital Flip Mini Camcorders**
- 3rd Place Set of 2 Digital Flip Mini Camcorders**

Each school can submit two instructional videos they have created in which teachers can then use as part of their Internet safety instruction. The instructional video can be any length (we recommend 5 to 10 minutes) and must focus on one aspect of digital citizenship.

The deadline for registration and submission of entries is February 19, 2010, 5:00 pm. The school's STLP coordinator must post all registrations and submissions. More information about the contest's guidelines and the rubric for scoring will be made available to the STLP Coordinators at their meeting this month as well as the STLP website: <http://teach.fcps.net/stlp/>

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

Student Technology Leadership Program

Monday, August 31, 2009 12:43 PM: STLP Kickoff 2009

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



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



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 .



Watch for news about our Internet Safety Video Contest (in Leanna's blog) and other opportunities ([State STLP Handbook](#) and [STEM website](#)) in which students may participate.

The STLP Kickoff meeting for coordinators is September 2, 2009, 4:00, at Julius Marks Elementary or September 3, 2009, 4:30, at Bryan Station High School. [Elaine Harrison Lane](#), our State STLP Coordinator, will give an overview of what it means to participate in STLP and talk about changes from last year. I will fill you in on FCPS activities and deadlines.

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>

Video Conferencing Events, PD's and Collaborations

Monday, August 17, 2009 8:44 AM: Authors Who Skype With Book Clubs

Upcoming video conferencing events, PD's and collaborations from CILC, MAGPI and more.



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

Free Skype Chats with Authors!

The following authors offer free 20-minute Skype chats with book clubs that have read one of their books! (Many also offer more in-depth virtual school visits for a fee.) To arrange a virtual visit, check out the authors' websites for book choices and contact information. (Thanks to blogger and children's book author Katie Messner for [this wonderful list!](#))



- **What is Skype?** Skype is a free videoconferencing platform **anyone** can use! It supports point-to-point connections.
- **What do I need to use Skype?** All you need is a computer, a webcam, preferably a microphone and speakers, and an account with Skype. [See their website](#) to set up an account. Contact us if you need help!

Picture Book Clubs for Younger Readers (4-8)

- [Marsha Diane Arnold](#)
- [Susan Taylor Brown](#)
- [Katie Davis](#)
- [Elizabeth Dulemba](#)
- [Cynthia Leitich-Smith](#)
- [Melissa Stewart](#)
- [Tanya Lee Stone](#)
- [Gwendolyn Zepeda](#)

Adult Book Clubs

- [Charlene Ann Baumbich](#)

Middle Grade Book Clubs (Ages 8-12)

- [R.J. Anderson](#)
- [Julie Berry](#)
- [Susan Taylor Brown](#)
- [Katie Davis](#)
- [Julia DeVillers](#)
- [Erin Dionne](#)
- [Sarah Beth Durst](#)
- [Dotti Enderle](#)
- [Donna Gephart](#)
- [Irene Latham](#)
- [Cynthia Liu](#)

[Sandra Blakeslee](#)
[Anita Liberty](#)
[CJ Lyons](#)
[Katie MacAlister](#)
[Sarah Maclean](#)
[Maryann McFadden](#)
[Kelly Simmons](#)
[Garth Stein](#)
[Gwendolyn Zepeda](#)

[Leslie Margolis](#)
[Kate Messner](#)
[Mitali Perkins](#)
[Sarah Prineas](#)
[Kurtis Scaletta](#)
[Adam Selzer](#)
[Tanya Lee Stone](#)
[Tracie Vaughn Zimmer](#)

Teen Book Clubs

[Ann Angel](#)
[Cyn Balog](#)
[Tracey Baptiste](#)
[Lauren Bjorkman](#)
[Leigh Brescia](#)
[Sarah Rees Brennan](#)
[Jennifer Brown](#)
[Jessica Burkhart](#)
[Kay Cassidy](#)
[Crissa-Jean Chappell](#)
[Sarah Beth Durst](#)
[Megan Frazer](#)
[Brendan Halpin](#)
[S.A. Harazin](#)
[Cheryl Renee Herbsman](#)
[Jennifer Jabaley](#)
[Kristi Imani Kasai](#)
[Jo Knowles](#)
[Daniel Kraus](#)
[Cynthia Leitich-Smith](#)
[Anita Liberty](#)
[Sarah Darer Littman](#)
[Cynthea Liu](#)
[Eric Luper](#)

Teen Book Clubs (Cont'd)

[Katie MacAlister](#)
[Sarah Maclean](#)
[Lisa Mantchev](#)
[Leslie Margolis](#)
[Peter Marino](#)
[Neesha Meminger](#)
[Saundra Mitchell](#)
[Greg Neri](#)
[Micol Ostow](#)
[Jackson Pearce](#)
[Mitali Perkins](#)
[Carrie Ryan](#)
[Sydney Salter](#)
[Lisa Schroeder](#)
[Adam Selzer](#)
[Kristina Springer](#)
[Tanya Lee Stone](#)
[Melissa Walker](#)
[Mary Rose Wood](#)

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

The Virtual Elementary Classroom

A place to showcase virtual activities in the Elementary Classroom.



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

Monday, August 31, 2009 9:49 AM: Elementary Teachers - Using iSchool to Communicate



The teachers at Stonewall Elementary school are showing off iSchool skills by using an iSchool course as their public webpage. To view some of the public pages, visit [Stonewall Public Teacher Pages](#). Teachers at Lansdowne Elementary school participated in a iSchool Professional Development and have discovered lots of ways to easily incorporate iSchool into classroom instruction. If the idea of having a "Green Classroom" appeals to you, then you might consider looking into iSchool to help with that.

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

Intelligent Classrooms

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



...from the desk of
Diana Hendrix,
DTRT

Monday, August 31, 2009 3:47 PM: Intelligent Classrooms Come in Many Configurations!

Have you had a chance lately to check out the different hardware you can use in your "Smart Classroom"? Here are just a few of the more popular ones:

Smartboards, Dual Interwrite Boards, and Activeboards to name a few "Interactive Whiteboards"

Elmo, Lumen, Epson, and Avermedia to name a few "Document Cameras"

CPS and Smart Response System(formerly known as Senteo) are both "Classroom Performance Systems"]

Wireless Mic systems

And of course a mounted projector!

It can be overwhelming and perhaps you aren't familiar with some of these and would like to know more. Here is your opportunity to see all the products at one time!!

Come to the FCPS Vendor Fair that will be held on

For more information contact Diana Hendrix, DTRT 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 and announcements connected to this powerful resource!

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

Monday, August 31, 2009 4:31 PM: Fayette's iSchool is Grown and Improving!



Lots of new things this year!

- **We have a new logo!** See above...we're trying to spruce things up a bit!
- **How to start your year right.** There is no reason to "clear out" an old course for the new year. Contact us, and we'll clone it with all last year's activities still there, but the student stuff gone! Lots of other possibilities...see [Teachers 1.5: Beginning a New School Year](#) in "Teacher's FAQs..." for more details.
- **The Teacher's iSchool Development Community.** Join now! Contact us for how! We'll be holding our first "Swap Meet" later this month...join your colleagues to show off, borrow, and swap activities and lessons developed by you, and teachers like you!

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

Video Hints and Helps

Tools, resources, and ideas in support of the teacher/student videographer

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

Monday, August 31, 2009 3:25 PM: Live studio equipment - Updated

The latest request for live video production came from Susan Aiken at Southern Elementary, so I thought I'd upgrade this posting to more recent quotes. I'm going to drop some things to simplify the list. As before, there are a few assumptions this listing makes...

- No lighting, furniture, backdrop, or other peripheral studio items are included.
- You already own camcorder(s), a DVD/VCR video player of some sort, and computer display of some sort (Averkey or laptop video out, + sound patch).
- Each camcorder has an A/V patch cable with RCA ends, and that the RCA ends can be split from each other sufficiently to allow them to be plugged into two different devices [see "Video mixing (separate sound mixing)"].
- You have a line-in-capable closed circuit feed (usually a VCR patched into one of your closed circuit channels - contact A/V Maintenance if you need this set up).

Links, prices, brands and suppliers are current as of this posting, and will certainly change. Do not consider these links endorsements.

Item	Source	Cost	Simple one-camera broadcast	Video switching (sound follows source) ¹	Video switching (sound mixed)	Video mixing (integrated sound mixing) ²	Video mixing (separate sound mixing) ³
4-1 Video Switcher	Radio Shack	\$21.95		1	1		
RCA stereo patch cable	CDWG	\$2.98			2		
RCA - 3-way patch cable	CDWG	\$6.97		2			
Sound Mixer	Musician's Friend	\$49.95			1		1
microphone	CDWG	\$42.88			2	2	2
Desk mic stand	CDWG	\$23.93			2	2	2
NuMark Video mixer	B&H	\$999.99				1	1
Camcorders		\$0.00	1	2	2	2	2
DVD/VCR source		\$0.00		1	1	1	1
Total Cost				\$21.95	\$211.48	\$1,133.61	\$1,183.56

¹ In this scenario, camcorders, DVD/VCR, and computer have video **and** sound plugged into the switcher. Switching between sources switches both sound and video. This works fine, unless you intend to be able to broadcast live voices over the top of videos or computer display.

² In this scenario, only video is patched into the switcher, and sound is pulled from a single camcorder. This allows for voiceover (see #1 above), but wipes out audio feed for DVD/computer.

³ The NuMark and other video mixers include sound mixing capability in the same mixing board. If you're short-handed, this works, but is difficult to use effectively if sound mixing tasks require flexibility. As a result, most studios split audio into a separate mixing board (see #4 below).

⁴ Video and sound are mixed separately. This requires two people, but is much more flexible and powerful than integrated video/sound mixing.

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=29070>

