## In this feed...

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

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

**The Virtual Elementary Classroom** (Jamie Burch, District TRT)

**Intelligent Classrooms** (Diana Hendrix, DTRT)

**Student Technology Leadership Program** (Julie Gaskin, District TRT)

**Robotics** (Leanna Prater)

**Sharepoint - Content Management in Fayette County** (Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin)

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

## Classifying Animals, Teacher iSchool Swap Meets, Getting Smart - it's TIPS for October '09!

*...maintained by Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin, last updated 11/2/2009*

**TIPS** - The Technology Feed Vol 9, #2 (October 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.

### 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, October 01, 2009 5:20 PM: Are You Engaging? Do You Need To Be?

Over the last few weeks, I've been involved with the Elementary School Principal Cadre meetings. These workshops, led ably by science coordinator Lori Bowen, have had as their focus the idea of making academic experiences authentically engaging for students, which Phil Schlechty defines thus:

*The task, activity, or work the student is assigned or encouraged to undertake is associated with a result or outcome that has clear meaning and relatively immediate value to the student – for example, reading a book on a topic of personal interest to the student or to get access to information that the student needs to solve a problem of real interest to him or her.*

In the context of high stakes assessment and statistical accountability, this is no small task - we've manage to construct an environment which places a premium on students learning what is important to the accountability indices. Although this isn't, in itself, a bad thing (it goes directly to the debate over a "national curriculum" and "national standards"), it is quite easy to see that this process is not inherently engaging (and, hence, motivating) to students.

The job of making learning engaging is the responsibility of the classroom teacher, by providing experiences and activities which are *authentic*, *meaningful*, and *relevant*. As always, this editorial is about how technology capabilities can be used as platforms for these goals.

- *Authentic:* An authentic experience with World Language learning would be one where students are able to interact with native speakers. An authentic experience in U.S. Government would be one where students were able to ask questions of a lawmaker, or someone directly impacted by a law. It is very difficult and expensive to bring these people to your classroom. But through real-time videoconferencing, they require no more than scheduling the time! (See "The Virtual Elementary Classroom" for an example from science.)
- *Meaningful:* A meaningful experience with writing would be a student expressing a personal experience or interest, using a mode of expression appropriate to that student and the message s/he intends to deliver. With inexpensive camcorders and other digital resources, the writing process becomes intensely personal. This is the goal of "Digital storytelling," a well-proven way of engaging students in the writing process.
- *Relevant:* Several years ago, studies verified that the amount of time the average 12-18 year old kid spent in front of a computer had outstripped the amount of time s/he spent in front of a TV. The Internet is the new town square, playground, movie theater, coffee house. Project-based learning which takes place online fits squarely into these students' life patterns. In addition, such experiences better match the kinds of tasks they'll do as adults.

That is not to say that the use of technology will solve all of your academic engagement problems. As never before, the job of engaging students is the responsibility of the classroom teacher. But if you're doing that job alone, in a closed room, with nothing but books and pens, you're missing out at two levels. 1) Your students know that things are different outside of your classroom, and they'll have a hard time taking you seriously. 2) You're ignoring an incredible wealth of experts, materials, and contexts which can make your lessons and learning goals come alive for students.
Let us know how we can help!

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

### 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*

### Thursday, October 01, 2009 12:10 PM: The Teacher's iSchool Development Community WANTS YOU!

TIDC (Teacher's iSchool Development Community) is a core group of teacher/users of iSchool for student learning. This learning community exists two places:

- **Online:** We maintain an iSchool presence for TIDC. There, we can do a variety of tasks:
  - Develop new units and activities for use in our iSchool courses.
  - Find and share online resources which can be delivered through iSchool, or which supplement its capabilities.
  - Deliver fully-developed units, activities and resources which teachers have opted to share.
  - Discuss problems, make future plans, and suggest upgrades.
- **Swap Meets (F2F):** TIDC members meet regularly to augment the work we do online. During our Swap

Meets we discuss new system additions, develop new resources, and show off course resources and ideas to members. We generally meet on Fridays in the IAKSS Annex labs, and snacks and prizes are a regular part of the meetings.

If you use Fayette's iSchool (or want to, or are curious about it), and would like to interact with other users, contact me, and we'll get you in!

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

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### The Virtual Elementary Classroom

A place to showcase virtual activities in the Elementary Classroom.

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

**Thursday, October 01, 2009 5:37 PM: The Toledo Zoo and You!**



Last Friday, Liz Watts' 2nd grade students at Garden Springs were able to see the importance of animal classification - by discussing it with someone who works at a zoo! Through the magic of videoconferencing, Trish Barone, one of the people at the Toledo Zoo, discussed this with the kids, and applied it directly to several live animals she had brought to the studio. Mrs. Watts' students were absolutely spellbound. They watched intently, asked questions which indicated they were engaged and understood, and volunteered relevant experiences of their own - all with an expert almost 300 miles away!



(No, that's not Mrs. Watts' class - we didn't have a camera!)

Contact anyone in the Office of Instructional Technology to make this happen for your kids!

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

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### Intelligent Classrooms

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

*...from the desk of Diana Hendrix, DTRT*

**Wednesday, September 30, 2009 12:52 PM: Smart News!**

## Coming Soon! A SmartBoard User Group!

**I am in the process of developing a SmartBoard User Group and looking for ideas and suggestions what you would like to see in these sessions. Please contact me at diana.hendrix@fayette.kyschools.us and give me your input!! I really want this to be a valuable time for you. Time is so valuable these days!**

**Here is a link to tutorials on how to use your SmartBoard, Notebook software and Smart Response systems: http://smarttech.com/trainingcenter/material.asp**

**Check out these lessons already made up that you can use right now in your classroom from SmartTech: http://education.smarttech.com/ste/en-us/Ed+Resource/Lesson+activities/Notebook+activities/**

**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*

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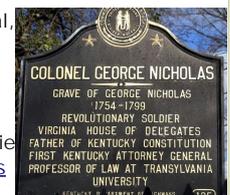### Student Technology Leadership Program

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

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

**Thursday, October 01, 2009 7:24 PM: Mapping Kentucky History Project**



Bryan Station High School, Clays Mill Elementary, Eastside Technical, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, Project Rebound, and Winburn Middle School used global positioning systems (GPS) to map the geographical locations of over 60 of Fayette County's historical markers. After visiting the historical marker, students uploaded the marker description, GPS coordinates, photos, and sometimes a movie to a database which allows the marker to be viewed in Google Maps or Google Earth. If you have Google Earth (free download) installed on your computer, click view in Google Earth. I found some of the photo links not currently working in Google Maps but the photos looked wonderful in Google Earth.



⭐Congratulations to Bryan Station High School students who were recognized at the State STLP Championship for mapping the most historical markers in the state of Kentucky during the 2008-09 school year! Way to go!

🌐 If your school would like to help document the remaining 40+ Fayette County historical markers, please contact Julie Gaskin to learn more about this opportunity.

| **Robotics** | **Thursday, October 01, 2009 9:37 AM: Topics Released!** |
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| (Personal blog)<br><br>*...from the desk of Leanna Prater* |  **Do you know how people and things in your community get from one place to another?  What kinds of problems keep them from arriving safely to their destination?  Is there a more efficient way to move, using less energy?**<br><br>Those are the questions that teams participating in this year's First Lego League are trying to answer!  This year's theme is built around transportation.  Teams compete by presenting their research, how well the work together as a group, the technical components of the robot they build as well as the field.  The field is an exciting 2 1/2 minutes where teams race to complete as many missions as they can by programming an autonomous robot and earning as many points as they can.  These field missions are no easy tasks.  Teams have to apply their knowledge of math, science and engineering in order to build and program the LEGO robot.  You can get a preview of the challenges from the First Lego League web page.<br><br>For schools participating in the STLP RCX RoboChallenge, it is all about the field.  This year's ICE STORM theme is one we can all relate to.  Even though the missions have not been posted, teams can access how to build the board pieces from Campbell County's Page: http://www.campbell.k12.ky.us/techresources/mercer/robotics/IceStorm/building.html<br><br> |

| **Sharepoint - Content Management in Fayette County** | **Thursday, October 01, 2009 4:14 PM: SharePoint Changes - Some Hints for Site Managers and Administrators** |
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| A discussion of the district roll-out of the Fayette County Intranet using Microsoft's Sharepoint Services<br><br>*...from the desk of Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin* |   With the SharePoint 3.0 upgrade comes some slightly different ways to navigate, use, and administer your SharePoint space. Here are a few of the high points.<br><br>● **Navigation**<br>  ○ *The Good News:* Navigation is a lot more intuitive - the "breadcrumb trail" provided by the links at the top of your page show you where your site lives in the SharePoint tree.<br>  ○ *The Bad News:* As  you drill down into your site, the breadcrumb trail changes in two places: **1**) the site bar, and **2**) the content bar. It can be confusing! There are other differences too.<br>● **Security** ("Permissoins"):<br>  ○ *The Good News:* As a site manager, all the security settings you crafted came through with the upgrade.<br>  ○ *The Bad News:* Several things happened: 1) Groups and Permissions levels were the same thing in 2.0 They're not in 3.0, so management looks very different. 2) There is no longer a global "Administrator" in each site, so you can easily take yourself out of a web part and  lose control! If either of these issues (or any other issue relative to security) scares you, or if you're spending more time on permissions than it deserves, schedule a security audit with me, and we'll fix it!<br>● **Document Libraries:**<br>  ○ *The Good News:* Permissions can now be set at the folder or file level, so there's no need to set up separate doc libraries every time your permissions needs change.<br>  ○ *The Bad News:* With any added flexibility comes complicated management. Don't use this capability unless you really want to manage things!<br>● **Explorer View:**<br>  ○ *The Good News:* This powerful way to leverage Windows copy/cut/paste/drag/drop capabilities is now a part of "Actions," so you can manage your doc library content on SharePoint as if it were a part of your own "My Documents!"<br>  ○ *The Bad News:* Since absolutely everything on SharePoint can be viewed and changed this way, you can screw things up! Be careful!<br>● **The Recycle Bin:**<br>  ○ *The Good News:* If you screwed up and deleted something, just go find it in the SharePoint site recycle bin, and restore it! *Voila!*<br>  ○ *The Bad News:* Recycle bins are strictly per-user - no "administrative access" to everybody's deleted document. In addition, if a user has only "read" access to the site, the recycle bin is not visible. If you want this to work for everybody, make everyone a "Contributor," and then modify the web parts you want to make read only. If you decide to do this schedule an audit (see "Security" above) and we'll make that easier to do.<br><br> |

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