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Conferences, PDs, and LOTS of deadlines -- it's TIPS for February, 2010!

...maintained by Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin, last updated 2/2/2010

TIPS - The Technology Feed Vol 9, #6(February 2010)

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

Monday, February 01, 2010 4:56 PM: Announcing...

February 1 includes nearly a dozen announcements, deadlines, and promotions, so I'm giving them their own space. See below for the traditional "From the Editor's Desk" editorial.

- Innovations for Learning (IFL) Conference Call for Presenters.** Formerly the Technology-Enhanced Classroom (TEC) Conference, IFL has opened its site for applications to present. See [this entry on Julie Gaskin's Announcements blog](#) for details.
- Videoconference PD.** This three-part PD offers 4.5 hours of PD credit, and features a VC demo with the Atlanta Center for Puppetry Arts. See [this entry on Jeff's The Video-Linked Classroom blog](#) for details.
- KySTE Conference.** This conference has taken over the timeslot of the old Kentucky Teaching and Learning Conference of two years ago. Once again firmly aimed at education technology integration, the new conference is March 10-12 at the Galt House in Louisville. [Click here for the latest information](#), and to register.
- STEM Fair Registration closing!** The deadline for registering booths and presentations for Fayette County's science, technology, engineering and math one-day showcase is February 12. [See Julie Gaskin's STLP blog for details](#).
- Internet Safety Contest Video Conference Deadline...**is Feb. 19th! Don't miss it! See [Leanna Prater's Internet Safety blog](#) for details.
- Siemens' Contests.** The non-profit Siemens Foundation has two contests with deadlines in the next month or so. [Don't miss these STEM-aimed possibilities!](#)
- The Teacher's iSchool Development Community.** Are you using Fayette's iSchool? Would you like to connect to others who are? Would you like to be fed, get PD credit, and free prizes? Join up now! Don't miss out on this opportunity! [See this page for more information](#).



Monday, February 01, 2010 9:41 AM: Who's in your network?

facebook With Fayette County Schools joining the wonderful world of Facebook, the virtual social network has finally, officially, arrived in the district. The Office of Communications has a vested interest in it, but from an instructional perspective, some work has yet to be done. As any of you who watch this space know, I'm all about connecting the latest techno-buzzword with its historical context, and its future, as it plays out in our schools. This "Editor's Desk" will be no different.

First, of course, we need to be sure to define our terms. "Social Network" and "Social Networking" are not new. It was, of course, the business community which happily exploited the word "network" as a verb, and that started a very long time ago. Professional networking and networks were considered an extremely important part of any business, or, perhaps even more important, any member of the business community intending to extend their professional presence. Doing so increased their visibility, their effectiveness in sales (or whatever their responsibilities were), and had a side benefit of increasing their ability to find and secure successively better/higher paying jobs. As a side note, it was this issue which caused women entering the business community several decades ago to complain – the golf course and the poker game were where a lot of such networking activities took place, and they were off-limits to women back then.



In contrast, the common "social networking sites" of today – Facebook and MySpace being the "big two" – go about things differently. Rather than just providing a context where folks can network (like during a golf or poker game), they *display* networks, and people. It is then up to you to find, select and join those networks through the "friending" or "fan" process. You can also construct new networks by grouping together the people you've found in meaningful ways. Most of the users of Facebook will tell you that finding someone is amazingly easy, and keeping up with people you care about is also really easy. Of course, most of those users will also tell you that a lot of vacuous chatter and nonsense goes on there, too. Since Facebook is one of the most popular sites on the Internet, you might think that there ought to be a lot there which could be useful to educators. You'd be right. Of course, popularity brings with it its own problems, so the first order of business is to separate the useful from the merely interesting.

LinkedIn, in contrast, is a social networking site specifically



aimed at the original business model - that is, finding and connecting like-minded individuals with a goal of professional growth and development, or job possibilities. It also leverages visible networks to help with that process, but does so through the key words each member uses to define themselves professionally. Hence, the system offers connections (their word for "friends") who hold jobs in the same organization, with similar job titles or interests, or with connections to related organizations or like-minded people. Like Facebook, you can build yourself through your profile, but the process is much closer to building a portfolio or resume. As a result, the level of interaction in LinkedIn is, by definition, much higher and more useful to people trying to accomplish things.

Of course, none of these platforms actually support the process of doing work, and learning, which is our real goal here. To take the leap from social networking to instructional practice, we'd need to take the "connections/friends/networks" of social networking, and move them towards learning communities through the use of collaborative tools such as document sharing, and knowledge-

construction tools such as Wikis. Courseware systems such as Fayette's iSchool satisfy this, but they do not support networking - social, professional, or otherwise. Blackboard (another courseware system) has somewhat satisfied this issue with a social bookmarking system called "Scholar." Anyone taking a Blackboard course of any kind in any school setting qualifies for free membership in Scholar, and links to it from a Blackboard course automatically creates your presence there. However, with its focus on sharing links to network sites, social bookmarking is a very small part of social networking, making this somewhat less interesting.

Beginning in March or April, Fayette's iSchool will include a social networking platform called Fayette's iNetwork. Like Blackboard's Scholar, it will pull from users of iSchool only, hence it will avoid the problems of public social networking. Like LinkedIn, its toolset and use will be aimed at portfolios, interest networking, and defined groups. Unlike either, it will be possible for teachers to isolate participation down from a group as small as their own classroom, or as large as the entire district's students and teachers.



Within three years, Facebook will have lost some of its popularity, and it will no longer be a buzzword. By then, another tool (and its associated buzz) will have stepped up. But, as is true in all things educational, some of the reasons for social networking sites' fast rise in popularity - the ease in establishing meaningful connections, ability for students to create an educational presence and vision (including an e-portfolio), to name a few - can be leveraged in our own house, to extend and enhance what our students can learn, and how.

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

Announcements

Tuesday, January 26, 2010 10:54 AM: IFL Conference 2010 - Call For Presenters

Technology News



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

Call for Presenters

Conference: Friday, June 4, 2010
Location: Paul Laurence Dunbar High School



The [Innovations For Learning \(IFL\) Conference](#) is open to all teachers, Tech Resource Teachers (TRTs) and Tech Integration Specialists (TISs). It will focus on innovative instructional strategies that engage students to improve learning. We are currently looking for conference presenters, especially teachers who have used technology with their students in or out of the classroom.

Click here to reach the [IFL Conference website](#). Please register (button, upper right) and then click "Apply to Present" (button on left).

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=18376>

The Video-Linked Classroom

Thursday, January 07, 2010 4:20 PM: Videoconference Workshop!

Videoconferencing, Live Streaming, and Internet 2 in Fayette County



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

Attention! Date change! There's still time!

Need PD credit, but don't want to sit in one place for the whole hour award? Want to see what the big deal is about real-time connections through videoconference? How about a stroll through the world of puppetry? Then join us for a series of professional development sessions titled **Integrating Videoconferencing into the Curriculum - A Workshop!** This PD will be in three parts.



1. **Thursday, Feb. 11, 4:30-6:00 p.m., IAKSS Annex 306:** Join us to see [Discovering Puppetry in Other Cultures](#), offered by the [Center for Puppetry Arts](#), Atlanta. This award-winning interactive program will be demo'ed as a part of this session.
2. **Thursday, Feb. 18, 4:30-6:00 p.m., IAKSS Annex 306:** During the second in this series, we'll look at how to schedule, organize, set up, and do a videoconference in your classroom.
3. **Virtual:** For the third part of this series, you will participate in discussions, and submit a lesson plan which leverages this exciting technology.

[Sign up soon!](#) (Click to go to the district PD menu.) Seating is limited!

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

Student Technology Leadership Program

Tuesday, January 26, 2010 12:29 PM: LEGO Robotics Teams Invited to STEM Fair 2010

A discussion of STLP

FCPS LEGO Robotics Teams are invited to participate in

activities, issues, and projects in Fayette County Schools.



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

the 2010 STEM Fair. Teams will register as a Showcase and be grouped together with other LEGO Robotics teams so you can share and learn from one another. This will be an exhibition and not a competition of robotics.

STEM Fair
Saturday, March 6, 2010
Bryan Station High School
Public Hours: 9:00 - 11:00
Awards Ceremony: 11:30



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>

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

Internet Safety

Information regarding digital citizenship in our schools.



...from the desk of Leanna Prater

Tuesday, February 02, 2010 12:41 PM: Video Contest Deadline This Month

Don't forget about the Internet Safety Video Contest for students. Deadline for submitting videos is February 19th by 5:00 PM. The school's STLP coordinator must post all registrations and submissions. Information about the contest's guidelines and the rubric for scoring is available on the STLP website: <http://teach.fcps.net/stlp/>

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.

So grab that camera and start filming! 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**

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

The Virtual Elementary Classroom

A place to showcase virtual activities in the Elementary Classroom.



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

Thursday, January 21, 2010 2:14 PM: Student Collaboration - Bryan Station High & Picadome Elementary

The students in Mrs. Ellis' second grade class had the opportunity to video conference with the Academy of Information Technology students at Bryan Station High School on Wednesday, January 20th. During this time, the IT Academy students opened up a computer and explained the function of each part of the computer, answered questions about computers and raved about the technology and leadership skills they have gained due to their participation in the IT Academy. Amy Johns, IT Academy Coordinator and parent to a student in Mrs. Ellis class conducted the video conference as part of their career day activities. Following the video conference the students were then allowed to open up a computer, take out the pieces and parts and have a hands on experience that truly had them engaged! What a great way to connect our students, discuss various careers and spark an interest for the future!



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

KET EncycloMedia

Explore resources and community tools for educators -- including exclusive content for members of the Discovery Educator Network (username and password required).



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

Saturday, January 30, 2010 2:08 PM: Geologist's Notebook

In Fayette County, grade 6 students will explain cause and effect relationships in the rock cycle (SC-06-2.3.2). Geologist's Notebook: [Three Rocks](#) (11 min.) looks at three stones - a piece of igneous, a piece of sedimentary, and a piece of metamorphic rock - and investigates how they formed, and how they relate to one another through the rock cycle.

This video has 6 segments which can be viewed individually or continuously, offers a closed caption option, and includes a video

quiz. Resources include blackline masters and a teacher's guide.

💡 Be sure to check out Jamie Burch's blog of [Video Conferencing Events](#) to learn more about the video conference Kids Rock! A Look at Rocks and the Rock Cycle.

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=18374>

Atomic Learning

An introduction to some of the online tutorials and lesson ideas available from Atomic Learning.

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

Wednesday, January 27, 2010 11:13 AM: Learning Video Storytelling Guide Intro



Atomic Learning offers short, online, video tutorials and lesson ideas to help you embrace technology and integrate it into your classroom.

Video Storytelling Guide



Although there is a charge to view many of the resources, the video tutorials for [Video Storytelling Guide Intro](#) are FREE for everyone to view - from teachers, students, your neighbor just anyone! View the tutorials at your leisure, project them to help instruct a class, or refer students to the tutorials so they become independent learners and create their own classroom projects.

? Navigation Tip: I've provided a direct link to the [Video Storytelling Guide Intro](#) but if you'd like to go to [Atomic Learning](#) and navigate, just look for the link for "Technology Integrated Resources" on the left.

💡 Be sure to check out Leanna Prater's [Internet Safety blog](#) to learn more about entering the FCPS Internet Safety Video Contest. Now that you're an expert with making videos, let's get more Flip Camcorders into the hands of students! And as always, feel free to call our department if you'd like some help.

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=41976>

Internet Safety

Information regarding digital citizenship in our schools.



...from the desk of Leanna Prater

Tuesday, February 02, 2010 12:49 PM: Internet Safety Parent Nights

Do you have parents at your school requesting information about how to keep their child safe while on the internet? Are they unfamiliar with sites like Facebook, MySpace and You Tube?

In order to help parents in turn help their child be safe online, we have asked a special guest from KDE to come to our STEM Fair on March 6th at Bryan Station High School to lead some mini sessions on digital citizenship topics.

Also, we are planning an Internet Safety Night for parents on March 25th from 6:00 to 7:00 at Southern Middle School. Parents attending can receive some helpful information about social networking sites, personal safety online and predator awareness.

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

Robotics

(Personal blog)

...from the desk of Leanna Prater

Tuesday, February 02, 2010 1:01 PM: Gearing up for April

A BIG congratulations goes out to these teams for qualifying to compete in the State FLL Tournament: Denominators (students from LTMS, Beaumont and Dixie) ACE Eagles, Athens-Chilesburg Elementary Winburn Warriors, Winburn Middle School Bear Cat Techs, Bryan Station Traditional Magnet School

With the First Lego League season coming to a close for this school year, many teams are gearing up for the next big robotics competition: The STLP RCX Robochallenge. Teams will also have the opportunity to practice and meet with other teams at our STEM Fair on March 6th at Bryan Station High School. Be sure to refer to [Julie Gaskin's STLP blog for more information.](#)

...for more, visit this blog at <https://edtech.fcps.net/blog/blogs.aspx?blogid=40708>



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