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



Leadership, iSchool Use Stats, STEM Fair March 6 -- it's TIPS for March, 2010!

...maintained by Jeffrey L. Jones, Site Admin, last updated 3/4/2010

TIPS - The Technology Feed Vol 9, #7(March 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

Sunday, February 28, 2010 4:45 PM: What Does It Mean To Lead?

It's official -- "leadership" is a buzzword, not only in Fayette County but in Frankfort as well, where expectations for leadership were written into teacher standards. Any Kentucky Teacher Internship Program (KTIP) participant will tell you about it. It is also a word which gets thrown around a lot in the Office of Instructional Technology. Our office is, of course, supposed to provide leadership in the use of technology in the classroom. Are we? How can anyone tell if we are, or any other teacher is, providing "leadership?" Is this just another buzzword for "Yet another thing a teacher has to do, a bar they have to clear, just to keep teaching?" Sometimes it really does feel like that.

Of course, when we normally think of "leadership," we look to the private sector, where often being a leader means being powerful, being fully in control of one's own destiny, being responsible for a lot of other people's lives, and (not incidentally), being well paid. Politicians, of course, provide another interesting twist on the "leadership" concept (insert your own evaluation of them here...). In the world of entertainment, "leadership" is often mistakenly used interchangeably with celebrity, since, there, celebrity is the currency of power and earning potential. Do any of these models mean anything to a classroom teacher?

Well, not according to the Educational Professional Standards Board, the teacher certification arm of the State of Kentucky. In the Teacher Standards, they define an "Advanced Level [leadership] Performance" as someone who...

Identifies leadership opportunities within the school, community, or professional organizations to advance learning, improve instructional practice, facilitate professional development of colleagues, or advocate positive policy change; and selects an opportunity to demonstrate initiative, planning, organization, and professional judgment (<http://www.kyepsb.net/teacherprep/standards.asp>).



Interestingly, there is nothing in that text that reflects any of the standard models mentioned above -- no power, no control, no extra pay, no celebrity. Instead, the definition promotes participation in, and improvement of, the educational and school community, through promotional activities and exemplary practices. By this measure, providing leadership is *not* who or where you are, *but what you do* -- it is defined not by presence and power, but by membership, advocacy, and contribution.

A week from this Wednesday brings the Ky Society of Technology in Education (KySTE) [Spring Conference](#) in its new March time slot. The conference itself is not new, but the level in which it supports teacher leadership as defined by EPSB is beyond the scale of past KySTE conferences. The remainder of this editorial celebrates the teachers and leaders of Fayette County who have stepped up, and have signed on to present at the KySTE conference. They do that not because they will be paid, nor because their celebrity, power, or earning potential will improve. They do it to participate, to advocate, and to contribute. This is truly the spirit of leadership!



- **Jamie Burch/Office of Instructional Technology, IAKSS.** Jamie's innovations in hybrid and blended instruction through virtual tools prepared her for her presentation's focus on 21st Century tools, with co-presenter Amy Johns.
- **Greg Drake/Coordinator of Instructional Technology, IAKSS.** Greg is a past winner of the KySTE Education Technology Leadership award, and he continues that service with a presentation on how Fayette County funds technology purchases and programs through merit applications, called "Request for Proposals" (RFPs).
- **Julie Gaskin/Office of Instructional Technology, IAKSS.** Julie provides leadership to Fayette County through her position as Student Technology Leadership Program coordinator, and the associated STEM Fair taking place at Bryan Station High this Saturday. She will be presenting on these and associated issues at KySTE.
- **Diana Hendrix/Office of Instructional Technology, IAKSS.** Diana's district responsibilities include the support of so-called smart classrooms, an area she'll be exploring in her conference presentation with an examination of the use of classroom performance systems.
- **Jennifer Humble/The Learning Center.** Jennifer is an innovator. This year she will be illustrating how she uses a variety of tools to engage, challenge, and teach, including video conference technologies, "smart classroom" tools, and online learning management.
- **Amy Johns/Bryan Station High School.** Amy is the director of BSHS's Academy of Information Technology, a more traditional leadership role. She's co-presenting with Jamie Burch on the use of virtual instructional tools for teaching high school students Internet safety.

- **Jeffrey L. Jones/Office of Instructional Technology, IAKSS.** Besides being a member of the KySTE board (and, as a result, involved in the organization of the conference), Jeff will be presenting on several virtual tools in instruction, as well as on the Teacher's iSchool Development Community, a practice-based community in support of virtual instruction through Fayette's iSchool. He will also be facilitating several "birds of a feather" special interest group meetings.
- **Joni Maloney/Liberty Elementary School.** Joni's involvement in education technology has truly followed the EPSB style of leadership. Her presentation at KySTE will be on the use of Lexia Reading to improve student reading scores.
- **Ryan McQuerry/Tates Creek High School.** Ryan is a recent addition to the ranks of tech integration leadership, coming with a proven track record as an online innovator and designer. In his KySTE presentation he'll be looking into 21st Century student and parent communications tools.
- **Mike Muncy/Special Ed, IAKSS.** Mike has been a driving force behind the use of sophisticated online tools to reduce the complexity and paper base for special education's myriad documentation requirements. This year he's presenting on the use of SharePoint for that purpose.
- **Leanna Prater/Office of Instructional Technology, IAKSS.** Leanna is presenting on several topics, including the roll-out of this year's Ky Regions Project, a collaboration between students across the state -- a project-based learning program she helped design.

Are you inspired? Do you have leadership in instructional technology and innovative classroom practice? In June will be another possible venue to display your talents, the [Innovations For Learning Conference](#) in Fayette County. The **Call for Presenters** is currently open! Come join us as a participant, an advocate, a contributor...a leader!

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

### 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, February 28, 2010 12:09 PM: 2010 STEM Fair Invitation



Science Technology Engineering & Math Fair

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

Please join us at this year's STEM Fair which will showcase more than 80 technology projects representing 56 STLP (Student Technology Leadership Program) groups. We also have 6 student groups making presentations and variety of student-made videos, digital art creations, interactive content, and technical writings to share with you. Back for the second year, will be a Robotics Exhibition with 18 schools represented.

New this year, Marty Park, Kentucky Department of Education, will offer a session for parents and teachers on how to talk to your kids about being a citizen in our digital world. Learn strategies to help students help themselves.

#### *It's About Your Kids Online*

9:30 - 10:00  
 10:15 - 10:45

Our talented students will be joined by guests from:

- Bryan Station High School IT Academy
- Creative Image Technologies
- Dell
- Explorium of Lexington
- Georgetown College
- Kentucky Department of Education
- Kentucky Educational Television' Scale City
- Lexmark
- Mindtriggerz
- Newton's Attic
- Proven Learning
- ProSys
- UK's Center for Visualization
- UK's College of Engineering
- Unbridled Information Technology

For more information: <http://teach.fcps.net/stem/>

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

### Robotics

(Personal blog)



...from the desk of Leanna Prater

### Monday, March 01, 2010 11:55 AM: Robotics Room at the STEM Fair

Stop by and check out the Robotics Room at the Fayette County STEM Fair on March 6th at Bryan Station High School. There will be a lot to see, including the competition mat from this year's First Lego League Challenge and the mat teams have been practicing on for the STLP Ice Storm Competition. Don't miss the 18 schools represented, as well as Fayette County's FIRST Robotics Teams!

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

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

Watch this space for updates and

### Sunday, February 28, 2010 11:06 PM: Fayette's iSchool: Greatest Hits!

Rather than talk about some specific program, service, idea, tool, or other particular for Fayette County's learning management system, we thought it might be fun to give a snapshot -- some telling statistics on how, and how much, the system is used by educators in Fayette County. We think you might be just a little surprised! These statistics show that....



announcements connected to this powerful resource!



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

- Overall course shells and registered users reflect over a third of all schools, teachers and students in Fayette County. Of course, our goal is 100%!
- Use and participation in this resource spans all grade levels.
- Students are accessing and using this resource outside of their regular class schedule.
- Students *actually produce content* and participate with other students in discussions when they access a course.



Here are some fast facts.

- **Total registered users:** 13,726
- **Logins** as of 10:33 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28...
  - ...in the last *minute*: 4
  - ...in the last hour: 24
  - ...in the last day: 287 (remember - this is a Sunday evening!)
- **Total registered courses:** 964.

### Top 5 hit counts - Week of Feb. 21 - 28

This represents how many times a specific course home page was accessed.

Course	Activity	Notes
<a href="#">iSchool</a>	7202	This is the iSchool home page. Anyone visiting it will be counted, but anyone using a direct link to a course (through an external link or "favorites") is ignored.
Stonewall Computing Connections	2551	Public portal to Stonewall Elementary technology courses, Amy Ford, teacher. This page provides linked access to 5 other active courses, but has no active enrollment itself.
BSHS Comp Apps	2448	IT Computer Applications course with online documents, resources, and assignments. Bryan Station High, Shawn Owens, teacher, 78 students
JLA - 3rd Grade	2324	General course for 3rd grade student resources and chat, James Lane Allen. Kathy Keinath, teacher, 79 students.
ACE: Mrs. Back's Class	958	Course for student discussion of readings and other topics (snow days!). Athens-Chilesburg Elementary, Tessa Back, teacher, 23 students.

### Top 5 Participation Ratio - Week of Feb. 21 - 28

This statistic displays the courses in which students, once they entered, were most likely to do something – complete an assignment, participate in a discussion, or do some other online activity – as a ratio of hits to contributions. Since a single user contributing a single assignment yields a high ratio, I've only included active courses (over 50 contributions).

Course	Views	Posts	Participation ratio	Notes
Responding to Reading	23	158	6.82	Charlotte Flatt at Mary Todd Elementary uses this course as a place for students to react to books they're assigned. Most of the "posts" came from a live chat hosted by Ms. Flatt.
EJH PLVS	71	64	0.8	The Practical Living/Vocational Studies teachers at Edythe J Hayes Middle collaborated on this course. The posts, in this case, are "Flashback" quizzes.
BSHS Symph Band	75	54	0.7	Shaun Owens uses this course to post everything from performance recordings to readings. The student posts are quizzes, and discussions critiquing their own performances.
Exam Course	112	55	0.51	This course, managed by Rita Stamey, serves as a delivery shell for examinations on high school core content for use in credit recovery across the district.
Red Reading Group	241	89	0.48	Rachel Barcus facilitates this online course with discussions about reading assignments.

*...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*

### Monday, March 01, 2010 11:05 AM: Literature Circles in iSchool

Amy McVey, principal at Veteran's Park Elementary School has taken Literature Circles to another level. With the use of Fayette's iSchool she has allowed her students the opportunity to discuss the book topics during the school day, as well as outside of the classroom. Ms. McVey posted student assignments and has allowed them to lead the discussions with the use of a forum. She also created a quiz and used the built in grade book to allow the students to earn bonus points.

The screenshot shows a forum thread on iSchool. The main post is titled "How would you feel about your hair falling out?" by Amy McVey, dated Thursday, 11 February 2010, 08:35 AM. Below it are two replies:

- Reply 1: "Re: How would you feel about your hair falling out?" by a user with a profile picture, dated Thursday, 11 February 2010, 08:38 AM. The text says: "if my hair was falling out i would feel confident because i know that people still love me for who i am not by what i look like...like my family and best friends!!"
- Reply 2: "Re: How would you feel about your hair falling out?" by another user, dated Thursday, 11 February 2010, 08:40 AM. The text says: "I would freak out and probably never touch my hair again!"

Literature Circles are a fabulous way to dig deep into a book, adding the online interactive components adds another level of engagement. Keep up the great work, Amy!

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

### Internet Safety

Information regarding digital citizenship in our schools.



...from the desk of Leanna Prater

### Monday, March 01, 2010 11:21 AM: Internet Safety Parent Sessions Offered at Fayette County's STEM Fair

Parents who have questions about Internet safety and raising their child in a technology filled world will want to attend the special Internet Safety/Digital Citizenship sessions offered this year at Fayette County's STEM Fair. Marty Park, from Kentucky Department of Education, will host two sessions called *It's About Your Kids Online*, at 9:30 – 10:00 and 10:15 – 10:45. Attendees will receive a free booklet while supplies last.

Just a reminder, Fayette County's STEM Fair will be held on March 6th at Bryan Station High School. Doors are open to the public from 9:00- 11:00.

We are also 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>

### 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



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

**GREAT NEWS!** The district has purchased licenses for Atomic Learning for all staff and students. Check with your School Technology Coordinator for your username and password. STCs have had licenses for several years, so they are already familiar with it. Now, AL is available for every teacher and other staff person to use. Teachers may assign lessons to kids or embed it in other lessons. For example, teachers can now embed AL lessons in iSchool courses they develop. Teachers and staff may also use AL to refine their own technology skills. One of the best things about AL, is the lessons are very specific and very short – usually 2 to 3 minutes. You can take a lesson on a specific skill you want to learn and learn just what you need to know without having to wade through a long lesson just to find the one specific thing you need to know. But lessons can also be used sequentially so you can get a broad understanding of a piece of software by viewing a whole series of lessons about that software.

Our subscription to Atomic Learning includes:

- Project-based training on:
  - 21st century concepts and content
  - Tech Integration Projects: Lesson Accelerators
  - Workshops on emerging tech topics
  - Applying 21st century skills in the classroom
- 50,000 step by step technology tutorials
- Tech Skills Assessment for students based on ISTE NETS-S 2007
- 21st Century Skills Assessment for teachers based on ISTE NETS-T 2008 — a 40-question assessment from a rotating bank provides an indication of 21st century skills knowledge.
- Access for staff and students 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

We encourage you to use it as a resource for yourself, integrate it into your classroom, and invite your students to use it from home. Check TIPS each month as we highlight features of Atomic Learning.

🎵 As with any licensed software the district purchases, this is for Fayette County staff and students only. Please do not share your username and password with anyone else.

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

### Student Technology Leadership Program

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

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

### Monday, March 01, 2010 8:16 AM: 2010 State Champions Deadlines

Many STLP State Championship deadlines are approaching.

**Friday, March 12, 2010** the following items are due:

- Product registration and submission to compete in the State Championship on Tuesday, May 11, 2010



**Monday, March 15, 2010** the following items are due:

- Registration to attend the State Championship on Tuesday, May 11, 2010
- Registration for students to participate in live competition at the State

More information about the STLP State Competition can be found in your State Handbook starting on page 32. Page 36 has more information about the live performances. Please let me know if you have any questions. Elaine Harrison Lane, State STLP Coordinator, is also available to answer questions and she will be at the STEM Fair on March 6, 2010 if you would like to talk with her in person.

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

**Announcements** Sunday, February 28, 2010 11:38 AM: 2010 Doodle 4 Google Contest

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



**Doodle 4 Google Contest**

Early submission for chance to win netbook:  
March 10, 2010  
School registration deadline: March 17, 2010  
Entries due (6 per school): March 31, 2010  
Finalists announced: May 17, 2010  
Online public voting: May 17 - 24, 2010  
Winner posted online: May 27, 2010

Students will be judged in the following brackets:

- Grades K-3
- Grades 4-6
- Grades 7-9
- Grades 10-12

The national winner will have their winning doodle on the Google homepage on May 27, 2010. He/she will also win a \$15,000 college scholarship to be used at the school of her/his choice, a trip to the Googleplex, a laptop computer, and a t-shirt printed with his/her doodle. Google will also award the winner's school a \$25,000 grant towards the establishment/improvement of a computer lab.

For more information: <http://www.google.com/doodle4google>

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

**Video Conferencing Events, PD's and Collaborations** Monday, March 01, 2010 10:43 AM: CILC Events: March 1, 2010

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



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



**Content Provider Programs**

[In all Probability](#) - by [East Central Ohio Educational Service Center](#) 2007-08

What is the probability of rolling a 7 if you roll 2 dice? Join us for this activity-filled video conference that helps your 3-5 grade student understand and practice the basic concepts of experimental probability.  
Audience: Grade(s): 3, 4, 5, 6

[An Exhibition of Contemporary Indian Art](#) - by [HEC-TV](#) 2007-08 Honorable Mention

Join us for an interactive tour of "Bring Me a Lion," a contemporary exhibition of Indian Art currently at Webster University's Hunt Gallery. Audience: Grade(s): 9, 10, 11, 12

[Career Spotlight: Manager - Digital Media/Communications](#) - by [Pro Football Hall of Fame](#) 2007-08

Come learn about the unique career of Digital Media/Communications Manager Pete Fierle at the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He will be our featured speaker on Wednesday March 3, 2010 at 9:00 AM and again at 11:00 AM.  
Audience: Grade(s): 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

[Career Spotlight: VP of Merchandise Sales/Licensing](#) - by [Pro Football Hall of Fame](#) 2007-08

Come learn about the unique career of Steve Strawbridge, vice president of merchandise sales/licensing at the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He will be our featured speaker on Thursday March 11, 2010 at 9:00 AM and again at 11:00 AM.  
Audience: Grade(s): 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

[Acid or a Base? Understanding the pH Scale](#) - by [SOITA](#)

Why does acid rain eat away at limestone and marble? How come most cleaning products contain a base? Answer these questions and more as we explore the pH scale.  
Audience: Grade(s): 5, 6

[Plants: A Closer Look](#) - by [SOITA](#)

Let's take a closer look at plants. Join us to learn about the life cycle of a plant, parts of a plant, and what a plant needs to grow.

Audience: Grade(s): 3, 4

[STAGE DOOR CANTEEN! Saluting Pioneer Toni Frissell](#) - by [The Ward Melville Heritage Organization](#) 2007-08

Audience: Grade(s): 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

[1945: Witnesses to War - Holocaust Survivors and Artists](#) - by [University Circle Interactive Cleveland](#)

This 2 part program explores how an individual artist and survivors respond to their experiences of the Holocaust. Appropriate for students involved in reading "The Diary of Anne Frank" or "Night", studying World War II or involved with tolerance studies.

Audience: Grade(s): 9, 10, 11, 12

### Collaborations

#### [Whale Tales](#)

We're looking for traditional whale stories for a project on whale migration.

Status: Seeking Partners

Audience: Kindergarten, Grade(s): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

#### [HS Spanish interactions From Spanish Speaking Countries](#)

We have high school seeking partners from countries other than the United States, whose primary language is Spanish. We are located in Central Ohio, about 20 miles from Columbus and are considered a suburban district with much rurality.

Status: Seeking Partners

Audience: Grade(s): 9, 10, 11, 12

#### [What if George Washington Spoke French](#)

We are fortunate to live within 15 miles of Fort Necessity National Battlefield. As part of the KC3 video conference competition, the 8th grade social studies class at Ben Franklin School in Uniontown, PA

Audience: Grade(s): 4, 5, 6

#### [Monster Match: Easter Bunny Edition](#)

Pair up with another class in Alberta, Canada! Your students will have a great time while integrating Math, Language Arts and Art into their projects!

Monster Match: Easter Bunny Edition is a DESCRIPTIVE WRITING EXCHANGE

Status: Seeking Partners

Audience: Grade(s): 7

#### [Let the rhyming begin](#)

Our PreK students (4 yr olds) have been working on their rhyming skills. Using Dr. Seuss' book "There's a Wocket in my Pocket" and/or "Oh, the Thinks you can Think" PreK students would like to practice rhyming through games.

Status: Seeking Partners

Audience: Pre-K Students

#### [3 D Geometrical Figures](#)

Looking for a 3rd Grade class to present and share our # Dimensional Figures that we created as a class.

Status: Seeking Partners

Audience: Grade(s): 3

#### [Tangrams - 2D figures](#)

Looking for a 3rd Grade to share Tangrams that we created in class.

Status: Seeking Partners

Audience: Grade(s): 1, 2, 3

#### [Elementary Science Fair Exchange For The Evening of March 25](#)

We are looking for a couple Elementary Schools to exchange science fair projects. Students would put on three presentations approximately 10 minutes in length. We would be more than happy to reciprocate another evening.

Status: Seeking Partners

Audience: Grade(s): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

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



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