Technology News

Distance Learning Obtained

Have you ever wished your students could be taught by guest lecturers, poets, craftsman, scientists or other experts? With the wonders of technology, it's possible; and you'll never have to leave school grounds. This technology is called Distance Learning. Distance Learning will be available to all Yorkship students and staff beginning September 2009. As its name implies Distance Learning aims to teach students who are not physically on site with their teacher. Guest instructors might be across town, across country or even half way around the world.

Teachers and students may communicate at times of their own choosing by exchanging printed or electronic media.

The benefit of having Distance Learning equipment is being able to expose students to more of the world without having to board or pay for a bus. Or being able to create, collaborate or discuss projects or academic content with other classes in and out of district. Even instructional staff can receive professional development from dynamic engaging presenters with-

out having to hit the Turnpike and drive an hour or more to North Jersey.

Although all sessions aren't cost free, most have nominal costs associated with them.

In March, it was announced that Yorkship was selected to received Distance Learning equipment. Yorkship's Distance Learning equipment was acquired through a proposal process sponsored by the Technology Department. It should arrive by the end of this school year. Once it has arrived, it is expected to be housed in the former Compass lab.

H.E.A.T. - How intense is your teaching?

H.E.A.T. is a concept created by Dr. Chris Moersch, the designer of the LOTI (Levels of Technology Innovation) survey. HEAT is an acronym for

H - Higher Order Thinking Skills
E - Engaged Learning
A - Authenticity (Real World Connections)
T - Technology Use

Upon completion of the LOTI survey you may remember seeing a single digit number. HEAT is evaluated on a scale from 1 (low) - 6 (high). Technology Coordinators, Supervisors and Principals attended an intensive in-service on how to identify, rate

and turn up the HEAT.

During learning walks, beginning this fall a new two page survey may be used to briefly survey the amount of HEAT observed in your lesson, during a 5-10 minutes informal observation period. Additionally, the survey evaluates whether learning is student centered and notes various researched best practices employed.

The overall goal of implementing Dr. Moersch's program is to increase academic performance and provide our children with quality education that will enable them to be competitive on any platform.

Inside this issue:

Did you know… ?

There are National Educational Technology Standards for administrators, teachers and students. See how you compare at http://www.iste.org

Free Money

Looking for a wealth of viable educational grants? Digital Wish (located at http://www.digitalwish.com/dw/digitalwish/grants) will be your one-stop spot. Links to major corporations like Mitsubishi, Campbell Soup, and Dollar General as well as individuals with foundations like Clay Aiken and Bob Costas can be accessed from Digital Wish.

Digital Wish posts grants in the following areas:

Art	Gardening
English/LAL	Journalism
Foreign Language	Photography
Health	Technology
Math	General Education
Music	Special Education
Library	Community
Science	Social Skill
Social Studies	Staff Development and more….

Maintenance

Experts estimate that up to 70% of computer hardware problems are caused by dust! Many people do not realize that the little glitches and errors driving them nuts may be caused by dirty or corroded equipment. And they wonder why their PC only lasts a few years. Regularly cleaning your computer will delay or prevent this from happening. A layer of dust or grime acts like a blanket on your motherboard, heat sink and other components, preventing heat from escaping. Overheating causes eventual disaster, sometimes very quickly. Corroded chips cannot transfer data effectively, resulting in interruptions, or even complete stoppage of data processes. Cleaning your PC is essential to keep your data safe and extend the life of your equipment.

For a dust and grime-free CPU and tower use:

- Soft, lint-free cloth
- Canned, compressed air
- Mild detergent solution or spray
- Q-tips, preferably foam

Be sure all equipment is turned off and unplugged. Endust for Electronics or another aerosol cleaning fluid, are great for cleaning monitors and towers. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions and spray the product on the cloth and not directly on the hardware.

For keyboards use compressed air to clean between the keys. Spray at an angle to dislodge dust and grime. Shake loose dust gently out of the keyboard.
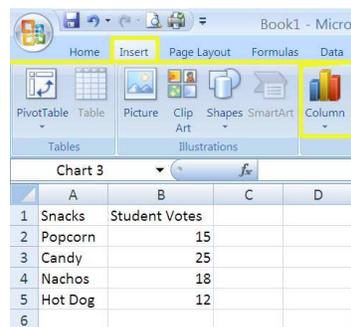
Data Analysis

Would you like your students to begin submitting more professional graphs and charts. Consider showing them how to publish and print their results in Microsoft Excel. For example here's how to graph results of popular Cinema Snacks as voted on by third grade students:

1. Open Excel

2. In column A create a column title and begin listing each snack below in subsequent boxes.
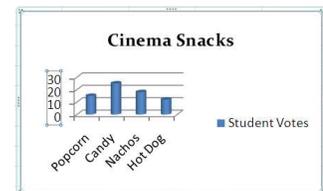
3. In column B add a column title and enter the number of votes for each corresponding snack.

4. Highlight your data in columns A and B.

5. On the task bar click Insert. Choose a Column chart.

6. The chart can then be resized, cut and pasted into a new worksheet/document and printed for analysis and display.

Tech Tuesdays

During a recent session, we discussed the latest technological craze: blogging. Many news programs advertise continued interactive discussions regarding topics that can be found on social media sites like Twitter but, "What is a blog?" you might ask. Wikipedia defines it as:

*A **blog** (a contraction of the term **weblog**) is a type of website, usually maintained by an individual with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video. Entries are commonly displayed in reverse-chronological order.*

Have you ever considered integrating blogging in the classroom? The concept of blogging is cross-curricular, just like writing. www.21classes.com is an excellent site for teachers to establish an account for a class with up to 20 students. Registration and maintenance of your customizable account is free. For more information on this site and its intricacies look for upcoming professional development opportunities being presented by the Technology Department throughout summer recess. F.Y.I if the list of PD opportunities is categorized look educational blogging classes under web 2.0 tools.

Technology Integrators of the Marking Period

All of Yorkship staff is to be commended for their innovative uses of technology. Lower grades regularly use Star Fall and the Harcourt websites. Upper grades consistently use First in Math, Study Island and Read 180. Even Ms. Meade, our librarian utilizes phonics, Spelling and story elements CD's. However, three teachers were recently recognized for their integration of technology during the Science Fair.

Ms. C. Allen's fourth grade Special Edu-

M.s. C. Allen

M.s. C.uneo

M.s. Nock

cation class won first place in the Science Fair for her grade level. The primary focus of her classes study was predicated upon knowledge of gorillas. Since gorillas eat apples and may not finish a whole one in one sitting, they conducted an experiment on what substance would preserve an apple slice longest. The students in her class used

Excel to graph the rate of decay. Moreover, her students learned that gorillas can be taught to communicate through sign language. Her students learned to sign their names, downloaded a sign language font and printed their names for others to see. Next, they found and displayed video of Koko, a famous gorilla who was known for his ability to communicate through sign language.

Fave Five — Technology Resources

1.

http://www.learn360.com/

EVAN (Educational Video Access Network) a.k.a., Learn 360 is a subscription service provided free to Camden City Educators courtesy of the Camden County AVA. Similar to Discovery Education, Learn 360 offers an abundance of streaming video, audio clips and images. All clips are aligned with state standards. And unlike other sites these clips tend to appear more modern. To log in, enter your first name underscore last name underscore 411. For example james_morgan_411 The password is Camden. FYI: Neither the username or the password are case sensitive.

2. http://www.free.ed.gov/

FREE makes it easier to find teaching and learning resources from the federal government. More than 1,500 federally supported teaching and learning resources are included from dozens of federal agencies. New sites are added regularly. FREE is among the most popular K-12 websites maintained by the U.S. Department of Education because of the many great resources being offered by contributing federal agencies

3. http://www.storyplace.org/preschool/other.asp

Sponsored by the Public Library of Charlotte, this K-5 site offers children the opportunity to view online stories, participate in interactive activities and print activity pages.

There are fifteen themes available for children in grades K-2, topics include colors, shapes, fire safety and animals.

For children in grades 3-5 visit http://www.storyplace.org/eel/other.asp Older children have a choice of six different tales.

The colorful graphics and animations will appeal to students of all ages.

Technology Committee

The Technology Committee is comprised of four members. We meet monthly to discuss ways of integrating technology and meeting goals established by our educational leadership and in our Technology Plan. If you are interested in contributing to this publication please submit your idea or published work via email to any one assigned to the committee. Members for the 2008-2009 school year include:

Catherine MacArthur
Technology Committee Chairperson
Art Teacher
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Christopher Fischer
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Special Education Teacher Grades 3-5
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lynettebrown@camden.k12.nj.us

Tech. Coordinator

Ms. L. Brown

The Technology Coordinator for Yorkship Elementary School is Lynette Brown. She is located in the rear of the computer lab, room 219. She can be reached by phone at (856) 614-7599 or via email at lynette-brown@camden.k12.nj. us.

Your feedback is appreciated.

Fave Five — Continued...

http://www.njea.org

The New Jersey Educators Association is a wonderful hub for everything! They are everywhere you need to be. Looking for from professional development opportunities, sites for students and educators, pension & benefit information and discounts? You can find it on the NJEA site, You can read and comment on their blogs, subscribe and receive RSS feeds, listen to podcasts, upload educational related photos to NJEA's Flickr, become a fan on NJEA's Facebook page or even subscribe to receive NJEA You Tube videos.

http://www.schoolexpress. com

Although School Express has a subscription portion, it still offers lots of FREE items. School Express has a plethora of classroom related resources. SchoolExpress has a variety of cross-curricular educational materials that are great for teachers, homeschooling families, parents, children, and grandparents. Peruse their daily journal writing prompts or look at ideas for word walls, activities that reinforce Spelling, Math or Social Studies Skills.

http://pbskids.org/zoom/games/kitchenchemistry/

Zoom is a fabulous Science oriented site that offers virtual and kitchen chemistry experiments. Both the virtual and real world application experiments teach children how to identify and make educated predictions on whether everyday products become an acid, neutral or base once baking soda is added. If students opt to work on virtual experiments, virtual materials are mixed. Students them make and submit predictions. Animated life-like characters mix substances in rocket bottles, seal them using corks and students then launch the bottle to determine whether previous predictions were accurate. If students choose to conduct real world experiment, a list of similar products is provided along with printouts and step by step instructions.

Tech Integrators continued...

Lastly, students used the overhead projector to aid them in replicating miniature apes. Their tracings were used to create ape pillows and paper apes that dangled from the walls and ceiling.

Fourth grade co-teachers Mr. Cuneo and Ms. Nock also deserve to be acknowledged for their use of technology during the Science Fair. Their class chose to focus on polar bear. They made a correlation between fiberglass insulation and Crisco grease compared to polar bear fur and insulating fat. Besides poster board and oversized replicas of polar bears, Mr. Cuneo and Ms. Nock's class created and displayed a PowerPoint detailing their hypothesis, data, experiment, and results.

For a visual, on what was done in these and other classes, check out Yorkship's website; www.yorkshipelementary.org, click on photo album, then Science Fair.

Or if you would like to be considered as a technology integrator of the marking period here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Have you created a unique technology integration of activities in which children are engaged, excited, and able to showcase their work through various medium?

-Did you use software applications, hardware or educational portals?

-Are you able to detail your assignment in at least one hundred words? Providing additional documentation is always a plus.

If you so you might could be chosen next?

Upcoming Events

NJEA
Tech Institute offers Web 2.0 Training

The Technology Integration Institute, sponsored by NJEA, the Richard Stockton College of NJ, and the SRI-ETTC will be held at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey on July 7, 14, and 21, 2009. Topics include Wikis and blogs; podcasting; digital storytelling, and an Introduction to Web 2.0. Registration is limited to the first 100 participants each day.

The Institute provides 5 hours of professional development credit each day. Participants must attend all sessions each day to receive a certificate.

For an additional fee, participants will be eligible for one graduate credit from RSCNJ if they attend all sessions each day for the three days, and complete other course requirements. Participants should contact Dr. Douglas Harvey, Director of the MAIT program if they are interested in graduate credit (Douglas.Harvey@stockton.org.)