



Technology Newsletter



Office of Catholic Education

APRIL 2009

Feature

Student Communication

Gone are the days of having to wait days or even weeks to communicate with loved ones who live far away from you. In the early 1900's, if you wanted to communicate with someone who lived far away, you needed to send a letter which could take days or even weeks to reach them. Luckily for us those days are gone. Today we can communicate in seconds with anyone from any part of the world!

Technology allows your students the opportunity to communicate with other students from across the state, across the country or even across the world. Communicating through technology can include e-mails, instant messaging, web-chat, class blog or wikis. I chose my "cyber buddy class" by googling my school name to see if I could find another school with the same name - sure enough there was one!

Classroom Integration

Once you select your buddy class, you can integrate this activity into almost all the other subject areas. Try working with the language arts teacher to write friendly letters. Students can use word processing skills to create the letters to send to new friends.

Cooperate with the social studies teacher to learn more about where your new friends live. You can go to google earth to show them pictures of the school <http://earth.google.com/>. Incorporate math by having students find the distance or time differences between the two schools. Or, working with the art teacher, have them create pictures using a drawing program to share.

We are lucky to live in a time where communication can be made so easy! Help your students learn the appropriate ways to take advantage of it!

Web Sites

If you do not want a year long commitment to a cyber buddy try this Web site.

Monster Exchange: <http://www.monsterexchange.org>

This site will connect you to another class for this one project. This project combines drawing skills and writing. First, students create a monster in a drawing program. Then they have to write a descriptive paragraph explaining how to draw the monster. You will set up a date to exchange the paragraphs to redraw the picture. Next, exchange the pictures to see how well the students did. It was always fun to see the end products! The site provides all the instructions and tools you need to complete the project.

Two other awesome collaborative projects are:

Go North

<http://www.polarhusky.com>

Square of Life

<http://www.ciese.org/curriculum/squareproj/>

Easter Lesson

The Web site I used for my Easter project is Catholic Online: <http://www.catholic.org/clife/lcolors.php>

The part of the Web site I used for this lesson lists all of the liturgical colors used during the season of Easter. The students would have to fill out answers on a worksheet explaining what each color stands for and list at least one other feast day the color is used. Once the student completed the worksheet they would go to a drawing program and create a collage with words/shapes and images that includes all the colors and what they represent. For the younger kids it was as simple as a rectangle for each color with a word and a symbol that it represents.

Triumph over Evil
Blood Jesus Shed for Us
Eternal Hope
Penance
Sorrow
Joy
Joy

Professional Development

The following workshops are available through the Office of Catholic Education
Go to our Web site to register!

On the evaluation sheets from last week's curriculum Mapping/DI presentations, some teachers wrote they needed "how to" sessions. Here are some excellent opportunities for them:

Curriculum Mapping Practice

Date: April 21, 2009

Audience: Any teachers needing assistance with their mapping skills.

Location: Corporate College East

Time: 4:00-6:30

Curriculum Mapping Practice/Analytical Tools Training

Date: April 23, 2009

Audience: Any teacher needing assistance with their mapping skills and interested in learning the tools on site to analyze your mapping data.

Location: Corporate College West

Time: 4:00-6:30

Making Mapping a Success

Date: April 30, 2009

Audience: Principals

Location: St. Michael's Woodside

Time: 8:00-2:00

Pre School Workshop

Date: May 1, 2009

Audience: Pre School Teachers

Location: John Carroll University

Time: 8:20am-2:30pm

Media Specialist Corner

Resources for School Librarians

This site has many links for state and national skills curriculum:

<http://www.sldirectory.com/libsf/resf/infoskill.html>

Curriculum Roles and Responsibilities of Library Media Specialists

<http://www.libraryinstruction.com/curriculum-roles.html>

Ohio Department of

Funding Opportunities

Education Portal for eGrants

This site will give you access to the Department of Education's portal site for electronic grants.

<http://e-grants.ed.gov/egHome.asp>

Music Teachers – Grants from The Saint Cecilia Foundation

<http://stceciliafoundation.org/>

Or e-mail them at

kb@stceciliafoundation.org

The Foundation is currently accepting requests for the 2009/2010 schoolyear. Some examples of ways these funds can be used include help in:

- purchasing instruments
- purchasing music and music stands, music books and aids for general teachers that may not have a music teacher available in their school
- going on musically-centered field trips;
- things that promote music and music education

Please note, that there are limited funds and the Foundation will be evaluating many requests. They will try to help as many groups as possible.



Special Thank You

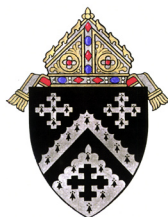
A special thank you to the teachers who presented at each of the Mapping/DI workshops:

- Nicole Pescatrice from St. Christopher's School
- Sandy Gonsowski from Holy Cross School, Euclid
- Donna Heintl from Holy Family School, Stow
- Annie Deemer from Holy Family, Stow
- Diane Patterson from St. Michael's School, Independence
- Renee Cerny from St. Francis de Sales, Parma

You all did an excellent job sharing your strategies with us!

Contact Information

Dolores Bruno
Curriculum Integration Specialist
Office of Catholic Education
Diocese of Cleveland
216.696.6525 x 8990
dbruno@dioceseofcleveland.org



Office of Catholic Education

Technology Newsletter

