

TECH NEWSLETTER



Winter 2007

Feature

Technology for Collaboration



“The concept of collaborative learning, the grouping and pairing of students for the purpose of achieving an academic goal, has been widely researched and advocated throughout the professional literature. The term “collaborative learning” refers to an instruction method in which students at various performance levels work together in small groups toward a common goal. The students are responsible for one another’s learning as well as their own. Thus, the success of one student helps other students to be successful.

*Proponents of collaborative learning claim that the active exchange of ideas within small groups not only increases interest among the participants but also promotes critical thinking.”**

Utilizing technology is a great way to increase collaborative projects within a class, or among several classes or grades. Older

students can help younger students with projects and research, classes can learn about cultures by communicating with students in different countries, and students can even run their own virtual stores!

*From *Collaborative Learning Enhances Critical Thinking*, Journal of Technology Education, Volume 7, Number 1, Fall 1995

Tech Coordinator’s Corner

Don’t forget to register for the eTech Ohio state technology conference in Columbus from February 4-6th. This year’s theme is **Transforming Education Through Technology**.

Some think that eTech is only for computer teachers. However, **every** teacher is guaranteed to find helpful information!

Looking for learning opportunities for you and your staff? Many **local libraries** offer technology courses for the community. These free courses run throughout the year.



Websites and Lesson Plans

The **Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education** offers several collaborative projects for students in grades 1-12!

Education World offers **10 On-Line Projects to Enhance Your Curriculum**. These projects, for students of all grades, are connected to several different curriculum areas.



Project Big Mac uses the prices of the popular burger from McDonald’s to study economics. Although this project is completed, you can access the information and results to help start your own collaborative project.

Math Forum provides a database of all of its **Collaborative Projects**. You can view the descriptions and the project links.

WebQuests are another great opportunity for students to work together towards a common goal. Each student generally has a specific role to fill, and all must participate in order to be successful.

Professional Development

The following workshop is available through the **Office of Catholic Education**



Digital Video in the Classroom

Date: January 25

Audience: All Teachers

Interested in learning more about using digital video in the classroom? Participate in this hands-on session to see how to take and edit videos.

**Be sure to register by January 11th for your chance at winning a digital camcorder!*

Registration for **eTech Ohio's Online Professional Development** winter courses has begun! These online courses do not start until January, but you must register now. Choose from math, science, social studies, or

technology integration courses. Many courses cost only \$50 or less!

The following workshops are available through **WVIZ**

Mission Organization

Date: January 14

Audience: All Educators

Is your computer cluttered with all sorts of files? Not sure where to save things or find things? Come and learn how easily you can manage files on your computer.

A Digital Camcorder for Your Classroom

Date: January 8

Audience: All Educators

Explore the interactivity and motivational aspects of integrating video into the classroom. Session fee includes a camcorder!

Funding Opportunities

Apply for a **SMARTer Kids Research Grant**. This grant encourages educators to apply action-based research. Winning teachers receive free equipment. Deadline is January 1st.



Are you an innovative science educator? Know one at your school? Apply for the **Toyota TAPESTRY grant**. Application deadline is January 28th.

Be sure to visit **Grant Wrangler Grants for Teachers** to find out about upcoming grants and to search for grants that fit your needs.

techLEARNING.com offers a Grants Directory and Calendar. Check out the calendar, and a lot more grant information.

The Office of Catholic Education **Educational Technology** page has grant resources and links to grant writing advice.

Contact Information



Moira Conway
Curriculum Integration Specialist
Office of Catholic Education
Diocese of Cleveland
1404 E. 9th Street
Cleveland OH 44114
216.696.6525 x 8990

mconway@dioceseofcleveland.org
www.oce-ocs.org/oce

May you have a blessed and safe Christmas!



OFFICE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

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