

Technology Newsletter



Office of Catholic Education

FEBRUARY 2009

Feature



Collaborative Projects

If you want to motivate your students in a new and exciting way participate in an online collaborative project. Here is a list of types of projects to choose from:

- *Exploring Projects* have students involved in virtual experiences in real world situations.
- *Interpersonal Exchange Projects* your students will communicate with students around the globe through traditional mail, email, chats, forums, and video conferencing.
- *Information Collection and Analysis Projects* challenge your students to collect, analyze and share information with other students from around the world.
- *Problem Solving Projects* challenge students to solve a problem for which they need to organize information and analyze the data.
- *Interactive Projects* – students will share ideas or information with other students.

When choosing a collaborative project you must decide if the project is relevant for you and your students and if the activity matches your curriculum outcomes. Some questions to ask yourself when deciding are: Does the project focus on your content area needs? Does the project match your learning outcomes? Are effective assessments included? What type of data would be collected and shared? Is the project motivating, meaningful, and authentic? Will the activities address your learning goals? Finally, you need to assess the use of technology for the project; do you have the hardware and software needed to implement the project (traditional mail, email, forums, chat, video conferencing, productivity tools)? Does the technology match the outcomes of the project? Is this a good reason for using the Internet?

Check out my favorite projects and sites I have listed in the web page and lesson planning section and good luck! Don't limit yourself to my list, if you google "online collaborative projects" your choices are endless!

Please share your successes with me, I'd love hearing from you!

Lesson Plans & Web Sites

Exploring Projects:

Virtual Architecture:
<http://virtual-architecture.wm.edu>

Jason Expedition:
<http://www.jason.org/public/home.aspx>

Interpersonal Exchange Projects:

ePals Classroom Exchange
<http://www.epals.com/>

International email classroom connection:
<http://www.iecc.org>

How Stuff Works:
<http://www.howstuffworks.com>

Information Collection and Analysis Projects:

CIESE (My Favorite!!!)
<http://www.k12science.org/collabprojs.html>

Mrs. Silverman's primary web page Kids-Learn:
<http://www.kids-learn.org>

Problem Solving Projects:

National Math Trail:
<http://www.nationalmathtrail.org>

Classroom Anatomy Online:
<http://www.accessexcellence.org/LC/aeL-COCclassnat.php>

Interactive Projects:

Monster Exchange (another of my favorites!!)
<http://www.monsterexchange.org>

Cinderella Around the World:
<http://www.northcanton.sparcc.org/~ptk1nc/cinderella>

Professional Development

The following workshops are available through the Office of Catholic Education

Technology 101

Dates: February 9, March 9, April 6 and May 4th

Audience: Any teacher looking to learn basic file management in Microsoft Office

Location: Incarnate Word Academy, Parma Heights
Register by fax

Curriculum Mapping Practice

Date: February 10, 2009

Audience: Any teacher who needs time and assistance mapping

Location: Corporate College East

Date: February 12, 2009

Audience: Any teacher who needs time and assistance mapping

Location: Corporate College West

Creating a Digital Yearbook

Date: February 23, 2009

Audience: Any teacher, technology director or administrator looking for an effective and inexpensive way to create a yearbook for their school.

Location: Immaculate Heart of Mary, Cuyahoga Falls

Smart Board and Math

Date: February 26, 2009

Audience: Grades 2-8 math teachers

Location: WVIZ (Parking is free)

****Check out the OCE Professional Development web site page for additional offerings!****

Funding Opportunities

Project Orange Thumb

sponsored by Fiskars Garden and Outdoor Living Gardens. These Grants support gardening projects geared toward community involvement, neighborhood beautification, sustainable agriculture, or horticultural education. Grant winners will receive up to \$1,500 in Fiskars Garden Tools and up to \$800 in gardening-related materials. Garden members and volunteers will receive Project Orange Thumb T-shirts.
http://www.fiskars.com/content/garden_en_us/Garden/Community/project+orange+thumb

Deadline: February 17, 2009



Inspired Visual Learning Awards

Recognize 15 K-12 educators and their students who are creatively using visual learning in their classrooms. Go to <http://cf.inspiration.com/vlwards/> for more information.

Deadline: February 27, 2009

Tech Coordinator's Corner

As the technology leader in your school, it is often your responsibility to teach more than the children. It is often your responsibility to teach fellow teachers and parents too! This can be difficult when the learner is reluctant. As technology coordinators or administrators here are some simple ways to combat reluctance of other staff members:

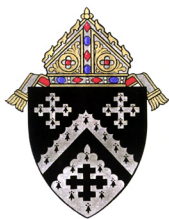
- Highlight ways technology makes life easier.
- Start each staff meeting with technology tips.
- Allow classroom teachers to share successful technology uses.
- Demonstrate simple use of technology for classroom teacher lessons.
- Use technology regularly in staff meetings.

Taking a few minutes shows others how easy it can be!

Contact Information

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There are new Web Sites to be posted soon on the OCE Teacher Internet Resource Page!



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