



# The Link



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Office of Catholic Education - Tech Newsletter

## Blended Learning

Blended learning can mean many things to many people. People interchange different terms: e-learning, asynchronous learning, web-based learning to name a few. For the purpose of this article, blended learning is combining the traditional classroom setting with enhanced technological resources. For years educators have been

teaching with some type of blended models, not always technological based. True blended learning reduces the amount of classroom time a student is sitting in a classroom. I am not proposing that. What I am challenging all of you to do is: reflect on your teaching methods; observe your approach; and begin to change

your pedagogical approach to combine your past successes, effectiveness, and opportunities of the traditional classroom with the technologically-enhanced active learning possibilities of the online environment.

## Virtual Portfolios

Virtual portfolios are not new. But they are a great idea! By creating virtual portfolios students have to use critical thinking skills (a 21st century skill) because they must analyze and report on their own academic goals and achievements. Read this article from <http://www.wausaudailyherald.com>

about the success of a Wisconsin middle school. Fifth-grade students at Rib Mountain Elementary School are creating virtual portfolios. They use PowerPoint software and include video and audio clips that are meant to increase students'

technology use and improve their analytical and critical-thinking skills. It is a software most all schools have, and an easy way to incorporate one of the 21st century skills!

## A Different Way to Write

Encouraging your students to write isn't always easy. Here are some ways to get students to write properly, and they may not even know they are learning! Use schoology or another blogging site ( kidsblog: <http://kidblog.org/home.php>). Have students

respond to a writing prompt. Here are some sites for creative writing prompts: [http://journalbuddies.com/journaling/journal\\_prompts/writing-prompts-for-kids/](http://journalbuddies.com/journaling/journal_prompts/writing-prompts-for-kids/), <http://www.buzzle.com/articles/writing-prompts-for-kids-in-elementary-and-middle-school>.

<http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2010/12/10-ways-to-create-comics-online.html>. Allow your students to create online comics. They can be fiction or non-fiction, check out Free Technology For Teachers Website for awesome resources

## ATTENTION!! Chance to Win Your School \$500.00!!

In honor of Catholic's School Week, Jan. 30-Feb 5, SchoolOne is giving away \$500.00 to one Catholic school. To nominate your school:

1. Go to SchoolOne FaceBook page and click "like" button.
2. Find the post on their wall about Catholic Schools Week.
3. Add a comment to the post that includes your city, state, and full name of your Catholic school.
4. The school with the most comments by midnight February 5th wins. GOOD LUCK!



A+ For America  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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## Check Out These Sites!

### **Title 1 Schools -Raising Readers**

<http://pbskids.org/read/about/>

Sponsored by PBS KIDS Raising Readers is a national literacy campaign focused on building reading skills at home, at school, in child care, and in the community.

### **Life Science Investigation**

<http://www.wviz.org/lsi>

Life Science Investigation- Attack of the Alien Invaders is a new multi-media classroom resource which utilizes the recent news story of the "Asian carp" threat to the Great Lakes.

### **Virtual Field Trips**

<http://www.efieldtrips.org/>

Shrinking budgets? Check out this awesome site of virtual field trips and teaching materials to go along with each trip!

### **Windows Into Wonderland**

<http://www.windowstowonderland.org/index.htm>



## Funding Opportunities

### **National Endowment for Humanities**

<http://www.neh.gov/>

### **Northrop Grumman Corp**

<http://www.northropgrumman.com/corporate-responsibility/corporate-citizenship/resources-for-teachers.html>

Education related initiatives that promote advancement of science, technology, engineering and math.

### **The NEA Foundation**

Student Achievement Grants  
Learning & Leadership Grants

<http://www.neafoundation.org/>

### **The Tech Awards**

<http://www.techawards.org/>

Technology that benefits humanity!

### **CIM - The \$250,000 Giveaway**

You can enter every month for a chance to win! Go to:

<http://www.cimav.com/giveaways/>  
for details!



## Professional Development

### **Check out the Office of Catholic Education Offerings**

<http://www.oce-ocs.org/oce/register>

- Education Technology Offerings
- Excel 2 week class
- Podcasting
- Preschool Offerings
- Secondary
- LPDC/Entry Year

### **Other PD Opportunities: Facing History and Ourselves**

#### **Online Professional Development**

<http://www2.facinghistory.org/campus/events.nsf/professionaldevelopmentonlinelearning?ReadForm>



### **WVIZ Ideastream**

<http://www.wviz.org/education/index>

### **G & G, Inc**

<http://www.ggedtech.com>

## Resources

### **OCE Ed Tech Page**

<http://www.oce-ocs.org/oce/teachers/edtech>

### **Classroom 2.0**

<http://www.classroom20.com/>

### **WVIZ**

<http://www.wviz.org/education/index>

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