

BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH

Office of Catholic Education

February, 2012

February is Black History Month

School of Thought CNN - Blog spot has an excellent article siting the background and history of black history month. Did you know - every year there is a theme for black history month? This years' theme is "Black Women in American Culture and History."

The following is a partial list of Black History Web resources for teachers and parents:

Library of Congress: African American History Month

<http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/index.html>

Smithsonian Education: Black History Month

http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/heritage_month/bhm/index.html

National Park Service: African American History

<http://www.nps.gov/history/aahistory/>

To read the full blog article on black history month, or get more resources go to

<http://schoolsofthought.blogs.cnn.com/>

5 Essential Steps to Redefine Instruction with Technology

In the January 25th online edition of Education Week Jennie Magiera a 4th-5th grade math teacher and technology and mathematics curriculum coach in Chicago Public Schools wrote an article about her experience in the classroom using iPads. Jennie received a \$20,000 grant and purchased 32 iPads for use in her classroom. After a year of trying to "fit" the iPads into her lessons she has used for years she decided that wasn't the answer, that the devices weren't making a difference for her students' success. What she learned was a very hard realization--that to bring in new technologies and working it into the day to day routine wasn't enough. She needed to change how her classroom ran, she had to redefine her teaching practices. Here are her 5 essential steps:

1. **Break down and rebuild.** Evaluate what you have always done, review your program and curriculum. Set aside your pre-conceived notion of what your classroom should "look" like and rebuild it.
2. **Redefine with a goal in mind.** When you begin to redefine your classroom you need to keep in mind the goals you have for yourself and for your students. Then ask yourself how can the technology you are trying to integrate help you succeed in those goals? An example she gave was one of her goals was to redefine assessment and differentiation. She employed the use of google docs and Edmodo to her class to create faster feedback for her students.
3. **Get more app for your money.** Jennie asked herself the question "What can I do with these devices that would be impossible to do without them?" "You need to move beyond using the technology to replace something else. Use it so the students can create something they couldn't before. For example, she used an app called Educreations, which allows students to record their voices on a virtual whiteboard and along with their narration a multimedia presentation was generated. This app can be used in any subject area and engages students in the highest level of Blooms Taxonomy: creation.
4. **Embrace failure.** I know this sounds difficult to do, but you can't allow the fear of failure stop you from growing. Try something new and if it fails, embrace the failure by learning from what went wrong and finding the solution that will work.
5. **Enjoy the results, reflect towards the future.** At the end of Jennie's second year her efforts paid off. 10 times as many of her students scored at the 90th percentile on the state math test. She now looks forward to how else the classroom may change.

To read the complete article go to:

http://www.edweek.org/tm/articles/2012/01/25/tln_magiera1.html



The Link

iPad Apps

Master the Math
Elevated Math
Globe Convert
Currency & Units Converter
Multi Protractor
Financial Football
Discovery Channel HD
NASA App HD
Hudson ALpha iCell
Painting with Time
Color Uncovered
Educreations



These blogs frequently address topics around Digital Citizenship

*Anne Collier - Net Family News
<http://www.netfamilynews.org/>

*Danah Boyd
<http://www.zephorias.org/thoughts/>

*Innovative Educator Blog
<http://theinnovativeeducator.blogspot.com/>
tute <http://www.fosi.org/>

iTunes U

Apple announced last week exciting developments: textbooks coming to iBooks; iBooks Author software to create your own books. K12 Institutions can now sign up to deliver content in iTunes U. This is phenomenal news! I believe this has the potential to transform education.

If you haven't seen the announcement, it's incredible! It will certainly make you think about how iPads can transform your classroom!

<http://events.apple.com.edgesuite.net/1201oibhafvpjihboijhpihbasdouhbasv/event/index.html>

Upcoming Technology Workshops

Classroom Curriculum and Technology Integration

This series of after school sessions will address how classroom teachers can use different technology tools to enhance student learning. These sessions are **NOT** "how to" use the particular piece of technology! Each session will be broken down by technology tool and grade level. Interactive white board, iPad and Web 2.0 tool are the technology tools being highlighted.

Dates:

*Social Studies: February 23, 2012

Location: Mary Queen of Peace, Cleveland

*Language Arts: April 24, 2012

Location: St. Clare School



Digital Citizenship Academy

This monthly series will provide basic understanding of the 9 themes of digital citizenship as outlined by International Society for Technology in Education (iste). It is our goal to increase specific knowledge of the current trends in technology while discovering how to meet the needs of digital natives. At completion of the academy, each participant will receive a FREE Internet Safety Curriculum. Our first session was in September; the topic was Digital Access. The January session was Digital Etiquette. Our next session is February 16, 2012 at St. Thomas More. You can still register! Materials you missed will be provided for you.



Educational Impact Online Courses

Many course offerings to select from at the Educational Impact Academy: http://www.educationalimpact.com/programs_topics.html

After selecting the course you would like to take, contact Dolores Bruno at dbruno@dioceseofcleveland.org to register **FREE!**