



Technology Newsletter



OCTOBER

Office of Catholic Education

Feature

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

What is technology integration? Most people think of technology integration as teaching basic computer skills and software programs in a separate computer class. However, effective technology integration needs to be viewed differently. Technology needs to be intertwined into the core subject areas not separated from them. Integration must go beyond researching, typing and storing data on a computer.

Do you realize by the time our current elementary students graduate from high school, they will have been exposed to more information than their grandparents were in a lifetime? It is believed that 90 % of the technology to be used in the next decade has not yet been invented! That leaves many people wondering how to integrate, especially when many educators are still resisting today's "digital world." The bottom line is...when schools resist the change, the education of students is stifled. Students are "digital natives." They are born into the digital world. They know no other existence. They live in a fast-moving virtual world of podcasts, blogging, email etc., and many of our schools are living in the "old school pencil

paper age." Technology changes educational goals because of the accessibility of facts. Educators need to minimize the role of memorization and develop higher order skills, such as analysis, synthesis and evaluation of data.

Technology needs to support our curricular goals and real world experiences. More and more teachers are using the Internet, but it must go beyond simply accessing the World Wide Web. Blogging, using ipods and podcasts, utilizing interactive white boards, communicating via email and other online environments are a few possibilities for connecting real world experiences with curricular goals. The possibilities are endless! Technology, when used correctly, enables the students to acquire, develop and refine their problem solving skills as they work to gather, process disaggregate and synthesize information. The Web provides easier access, interesting, diverse and current topics and learning materials. It provides them with unlimited opportunities for creatively expressing themselves through images, sounds and text. With higher band widths, networks and adaptive software, new opportunities are being created for real-world collaborations between schools and work places.

In the next column, you will find some excellent resources on these different mediums and ideas or links to them.

Whether we like it or not, society is technologically driven. We must move with our students in this "digital world" or we are doing a grave disservice to our student population.

Lesson Plans & Web Sites

With the following sites, you can successfully integrate technology across several curricular areas.

www.google.com/educators/elections_tools.html

This site is a collection of resources and videos where your students can learn about issues and candidates, view an electoral college map and even broadcast letters to the President.

nationalmockelection.org/

This is a mock election site sponsored by the National Student/Parent Mock election group. Here, you can enroll your students to participate in their very own election. After all the results are in, you could have your students chart the data in spreadsheets, turn it into a graph to view and analyze the data, and perhaps, compare it to the national results.

When preparing for All Saints Day, check out these Catholic sites:

www.catholic.org/saints/daughtersofstpaul.com/saintday/index.html

www.scborromeo.org/gallery.htm

Tech Coordinator's Corner

In order to make this monthly newsletter fit your particular needs, please take a moment to contact me at dbruno@dioceseofcleveland.org with any suggestions for the newsletter.



Professional Development

The following workshops are available through the **Office of Catholic Education**

Reading/Language Arts Curriculum

Date: Week of Sept. 30th
Choose your session and **register online at** www.oce-ocs.org/ocel/teachers/prof_development_elementary.shtml

Curriculum Mapping and Differentiated Instruction

Date: October 9 or 10, 2008
Check out http://www.oce-ocs.org/ocel/teachers/curr_mapping.shtml for more information and register online at http://www.oce-ocs.org/ocel/teachers/prof_development_elementary.shtml

Using Wikis in the Classroom

Date: October 20, 2008
Audience: All Educators who are interested in learning what Wikis are and how to use them to interact with your students.

Location: St. Paschal Baylon
Register online at www.oce-ocs.org/ocel/teachers/prof_development_elementary.shtml

Blogging

Date: October 21, 2008
Audience: All educators who want to learn how to use blogging in your classroom
Location: Holy Family, Stow

Register online at: www.oce-ocs.org/ocel/teachers/prof_development_elementary.shtml
ACTIV Boards for Classroom

Date: October 22, 2008
Audience: All Educators looking for ways to use the ActivBoard in your classroom across all curricular areas!
Location: St. Christopher
Register online at www.oce-ocs.org/ocel/teachers/prof_development_elementary.shtml

Check out WVIZ Connections

newsletter at www.wviz.org/education for a list of their inservices for the fall.

Cleveland Video and Podcast Seminar

Date: November 20, 2008
Go to: www.cleveland-podcast.com/ for details **but** go to : <http://www.cleveland-podcast.com/11-20-2008-diocese-discount-registration.pdf> **for special diocesan pricing!**

Funding Opportunities

Best Buy Awards for Interactive te@ch Programs

Best Buy is once again offering its **Teach Awards**, ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000, for programs that engage students by creatively integrating interactive technology into the curriculum. go to <https://bestbuyteach.scholarshipamerica.org> to apply. The deadline is October 12, 2008.

School Improvement Grants for Parent Involvement

Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant program finances school improvement projects initiated by parents. Maximum award is \$5,000. Eligibility : K-12 schools and parent groups associated with a non-profit K-12 school. Go to <http://www.toolboxforeducation.com> to apply. Deadline is October 17, 2008.

Contact Information

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

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