

THE TECH TRAINER

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This week in blue and green!

Just because the after Thanksgiving sales are over, don't expect tech gifts to become too expensive. Many companies are currently holding "cyberweek" deals that rival the savings from the after Thanksgiving rush. Walmart, Target, Tiger Direct, and various other online vendors are spotlighting certain brands and types of technology. If you are in the market for a new cell phone or a qualified upgrade, particularly a "Droid" or other type of smart phone, WireFly has an ongoing deal that reduces the prices of phones such as the Droid X, Samsung Fascinate, HTC Evo and others. Many of the phones are "free" for new activations or drastically reduced for eligible renewals. In addition the site is offering

free shipping and no activation charges when you sign up for or renew your contract. As with all deals check the site for specific details. (Early upgrades are not eligible). Verizon is also offering its own deal right now: add a smartphone with \$30 data package to your family plan and the \$9.99 line charge is waved. (in-store only.)

Math and Science Come Alive When Infused With Technology and Real-World Applications:

Everything is more meaningful when it takes on characteristics of real life. Math is no longer numbers on a page, but rather solutions to a problem. Science is not just old people in books handing us answers, it is us finding answers ourselves. Technology, ironically a product of both math and science, can help us in our quest to make mathematics and science more applicable and enjoyable to young minds in the classroom. There are a plethora of sites available on the internet that can enhance lessons we teach in the classroom with real world validity. Additionally we can use things like video, sound recordings, and projectors to not just present ideas to class, but to build a hands-on lab that explores equations and scientific inquiry. What are some of these ideas though? How can this be applied to an actual classroom? Well, below are a few examples of how these technologies can help to enhance and make subjects more "real" to students:

1. Use a digital still camera to talk about the cycle of a caterpillar or the gestation of a seed. Over the long term take one picture a day until the process is complete. When finished, import the photos into a video editing suite like Movie Maker and turn the photos into a time-lapse movie. Watch the movie with students and see the whole process in a matter of minutes or seconds.
 2. Use digital video to film a volunteer throwing a ball through the air as far as he or she can. Bring the footage back into the classroom and display it on the board with a projector. Pause the video at key points to mark angles. Turn the problem into a physics question and have students determine the force necessary for the throw by examining the footage and real world measured distance.
 3. Use Google Earth to measure the distance you walk on local field trip. Compare that distance to that which you get by calculating a pedometer reading (worn during the trip) from that trip.
- Again, these are just a few examples of using technology to bring meaning to the real world. If you like these ideas or have any others I would love to hear from you.

Your Rooms and Technology!

Is something amazing going on in your room using technology? Eastern is becoming flooded with digital devices, interactive boards, flip cameras, ipads, search services and other forms of technology. How are you using your new tech? If you would be interested in sharing your success, or your trials, with others I encourage you to write me. I would love to spotlight a couple of classes or projects every now and then of the great things you are doing in your rooms with what you've been given. There are some great things going on out there and now is the time to begin the sharing process. Others can benefit from your experiences. Who knows, you might benefit from some fresh ideas that your ideas generate in others.

Tech Tuesday Upcoming Sessions

Next Tuesday will mark the last Tech Tuesday before Christmas break. We will be reviewing all level 1 and level 2 proficiencies. If you need a refresher this session will cover it all. This session will last about an hour. The session will be held at the Elementary in Karen Rust's Computer Lab starting at 3:30. A new form of Tech Tuesday will be starting again after Christmas break with a new focus. Each week will spotlight a current technology that is available to staff at Eastern for classroom use and will focus on ideas about how to use that technology in the classroom.

Need Individual Attention?

Contact me at michael.berg@eastern.k12.in.us to set up an appointment today. We can review the proficiencies, work on a co-teaching venture, or address any other technology concern at an agreed upon time.

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