

Flip Cameras have arrived and administrators will be distributing them soon. Need help with a flip? eMail me for one-on-one help.

THE TECH TRAINER

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"Never before in history has innovation offered promise of so much to so many in so short a time"--Bill Gates

In a world of innovation, we not only need to be innovative to keep up, we need to teach and lead. Help students by incorporating new technology into your lessons.

Tech Tuesday Upcoming Sessions

February 22 & March 1—These two sessions will be the same and will cover basic audio podcasting and how you might incorporate it with students in your classroom. We will be using a free software program called Audacity along with microphones and some sample music tracks that I will provide. By the end of the session you will have a short podcast example, along with a copy of Audacity and ideas of how to use podcasting in your classroom. The session on the 22nd will be held at the elementary computer lab from 3:30-4:30 and will repeat on March 1st at the high school.

March 15 & 22—The focus these two March sessions will be basic photo editing with Picasa. Picasa is a free program available from Google. Throughout the hour you will learn how to touch-up pictures you have taken in class and finish them for printing and display. This tutorial will also give you the knowledge to apply the program to your personal photos. A sample of photos will be provided and you will actually work hands-on with the program to edit some of those samples. When you leave you will have a copy of the software on CD along with handouts on how to recreate the effects we explore in class. The session on the 15th will be held at the elementary computer lab from 3:30-4:30 and will repeat on March 22nd at the high school.

Teachers Using Technology Amazingly

Some of you may not know it, but if you have a school web page up and running you also have the ability to blog. Mrs. Hanny at the middle school knows. She has been blogging with her students for quite some time on her site. "Hanny's Hullabaloo" is an example of using technology at hand to communicate with students and inform parents. Her posts on class activities garner replies from students relevant to class topics. Parents that know of the site can visit and see first-hand some of the things their students are working on. Several other teachers throughout the corporation are already experimenting with blogging as a communication tool. If you want to start a blog with your students, open your teacher web page and click the blog tab. Please make sure you inform administration to let them know your plans and get approval first though.

The Tech Trainer is Expanding

The Tech Trainer is stretching its wings and is about to leave the nest for the very first time. Starting today, you can visit a companion site for the trainer at <http://techjargonforall.wordpress.com>. The site will allow you to post comments and ask questions about posts, and as I grow the site, I hope to get other educators from other schools involved. Do keep in mind that the site is public so if you choose to comment keep remarks appropriate for the public. The companion site will be for general technology in school and not necessarily Eastern.

Incorporating Interactivity into Lessons to Increase Student Interest in Subject Matter.

Many of you have interactive boards in your rooms, and those that do not, will have one in the future. While the boards do offer high end presentation value, you can often get more response from your students when you use the board to actively engage them. Does this mean that every activity has to incorporate students coming to the board and working out a problem through drag-and-drop, fill-in, games or flash activities? No, but if you start small and begin seeding activities into class that encourage this type of student interaction you will likely see growth in student interest. Let's think of it another way. What do you want to do when you get a new "toy" like a cell phone or an iPad? Do you want to hand it to someone else and ask them to keep the device, or do you want to get your hands on it and use it? Well, students are the same. They crave hands-on experience and when you let them use the tool in the front of the room you will see them come alive.