UCET 2011 Spotlight Session:
Joseph J. Kerski, Ph.D

Dr. Kerski is Education Manager and Geographer - ESRI - Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.

We are fortunate to have one of our country’s premier Geography and GIS educators at our conference this year.

Joseph Kerski serves as Education Manager on the Education Team for Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) in Colorado USA. Prior to joining ESRI, he served for 17 years as Geographer at the US Geological Survey, and for 4 years as Geographer at the US Census Bureau.

He has taught as adjunct instructor of GIS at Sinte Gleska University on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation, at the University of Denver, in primary and secondary schools, and in online courses. Joseph holds three degrees in Geography and thus is enthusiastic about studying biomes, population, landforms, hazards, and other topics using technology, maps, and imagery.

Passionate about all aspects of spatial learning, Joseph seeks and fosters educational partnerships, promotes GIS in education and society through service and scholarship, and conducts training in geotechnologies for instructors, students, and administrators in a wide variety of educational levels and disciplines, internationally. He creates curricula focused on spatial thinking that uses geotechnologies as its chief inquiry-based tool, and conducts research in the effectiveness and implementation of these technologies in formal and informal educational settings.

Geography and GIS beginners, enthusiasts, and experts: On Friday, March 4th, Dr. Kerski will present a spotlight session on how Geographic Information Systems help all of us in all aspects of our life.

He will also present two classroom sessions on Friday, March 4th:

**Friday Session: Collect data with GPS!** Join Joseph Kerski from Esri as we get outside with GPS receivers, collecting tracks, waypoints, routes, measuring the circumference of the Earth, geocaching, and other activities that bridge science, mathematics, technology, and geography.

**Friday Session: Map and Analyze Field Data with GIS** - Join Joseph Kerski from Esri as we map field data collected with phones or GPS receivers that have a latitude-longitude coordinate location. We will use Web GIS resources and desktop GIS tools to uncover patterns found in pH of water, tree height and species, historical buildings, and other phenomena in the natural and social sciences.

**Saturday Workshop:** On Saturday, March 5th, Dr. Kerski will present a 3-hour workshop on Geography and GIS.

**Analyze Your Community and World with GIS** - You say you’ve heard about GIS or maybe thought it was too difficult or time consuming to use in the classroom? Then join Joseph Kerski from Esri as we analyze local, Utah, national, and global phenomena ranging from natural hazards to population to climate, using Web GIS and desktop GIS tools. You will be amazed at how easy it is to incorporate inquiry into your teaching and also provide excellent 21st Century critical thinking and career skills for your students.
New UCET Awards in 2011!

UCET Outstanding Young Educator of the Year
$250 cash award
This award will be presented to an outstanding young educator, in the first ten years of their teaching career, who demonstrates vision, innovation, action, and transformation using technology to improve teaching and learning.
Nnominate an outstanding young educator:
http://tinyurl.com/2011oyeanomination

Media Specialist Technology Innovation Award
$500 cash award to be shared by librarian and collaborating teacher, $250 each
This award will be presented to a team of a school librarian and a collaborating teacher who have conducted an exemplary technology program extending beyond the library to meet the needs of classroom students and teachers. This award is by application from a team of a librarian and a collaborating teacher.
Nominate a media specialist and collaborating teacher for this award:

Newsletter changes...
UCET's board member over newsletter and website, Nathan Smith, is redesigning the newsletter a little. We hope you enjoy the new design. (Keeps him from getting bored)

UCET 2011 Volunteers Needed!
The UCET board is excitedly getting ready for the 2011 Conference at Jordan High School. We are looking for volunteers to help us with this year's conference. We have several different volunteer positions available. Below are the descriptions of the positions. All volunteers will receive a Volunteer T-shirt.

If you are able to help us out, please go to ucet.org and click on the Volunteer Signup Link and complete the form. We thank you in advance for your willingness to help us out. Without volunteers, our conference would not run as smoothly.

Join the Student Showcase & Presentations at UCET
Celia Powell, UCET Board
Teachers, we would like to invite you and your students to participate in the 2011 UCET Student Showcase. Many of you are infusing your curriculum with technology and have a lot to offer other teachers and we would like you to share with us and bring your students to UCET.

Participation works in one of two ways. First, you may display your projects in the Student Showcase during lunches. This is a great opportunity to network with other teachers and other students using technology in the classroom. Second, you and your students may sign up to teach a session during the conference. This gives your students an opportunity to share their expertise in a more structured setting.

If you are willing to share your expertise and your students' work with others, your registration for the conference will be free. This offer is limited to one teacher per session, but you are welcome to work in tandem with other teachers in your school or district. Teachers who would like to participate need to sign up using the following link:

Please join us!
QR Codes (students call them, “Secret Messages”)  
by Bonnie Muir

(Note: We will be having a QR Code Treasure Hunt at the UCET Conference in March, 2011. Details to be announced on Facebook, Twitter, the UCET website, and at the UCET Conference. Stay tuned).

Bar codes

We are all familiar with bar codes that are used to automate supermarket checkout. We find bar codes on nearly every item we purchase. Bar codes are data represented in varying widths of parallel lines. Bar codes are readable by bar code scanners, such as what we see at the grocery store.

The bar code below represents the words: http://ucet.org.

(Barcode generator: http://www.barcodesinc.com/generator/index.php)

QR Codes (QR is the abbreviation for Quick Response)

A QR Code is a type of bar code. Instead of parallel lines of varying widths, the code consists of black modules arranged in a square pattern on white background.

The QR code below represents the words: “http://ucet.org”.

(QR Code Generator: http://qrcode.kaywa.com)

How are QR codes different than bar codes?

Unlike bar codes, QR Codes stores data in both the vertical and horizontal directions and hence have more storage capacity per unit area. The information encoded can be contact information, a phone number, text, a website or other data.

How do I read a QR code?

QR codes are readable by smartphones with a QR reader app, mobile phones with a camera, QR scanners, or by uploading a picture of the QR code to a website. (such as http://zxing.org/w/decode.jspx)

Open the QR code reader on your smartphone, aim it at the QR code, hold the phone fairly steady. The QR reader will read the code and provide you with the data. Here are three examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>QR Reader Response on iPhone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://ucet.org">http://ucet.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Continued on the next page)
QR Codes (Continued)

Where can I find free QR code readers?

- iTunes Store in Apps section

Can I read a QR code if I do not have a smartphone?

Yes indeed. Browse for the image on your computer, upload the image to http://zxing.org/w/decode.jspx and click on Submit. You will be able to read the message.

How can I create a QR Code:

Here are some great QR Code generators:

- BeeTag: http://www.beetagg.com
- Kaywa: http://qr-code.kaywa.com
- Google Chrome Extension: https://chrome.google.com/extensions/detail/cicimfkkbe-jhggfjaabggafffgdngjipp
- Mobile Bar Codes: http://www.mobile-barcodes.com/qr-code-generator

Creative Ways to Use QR Codes in Education:

- Link to your class blog, wiki or website
- Homework assignment information
- Study hints for tests
- Student website resources
- Pop quizzes
- or create a QR Code assignment scavenger hunt contest

Tips, Tricks and other Good Articles About QR Codes:


Andy Ramsden at Bath University, Bath, England http://blogs.bath.ac.uk/qrcode

Colette Cassinelli from EdTech Vision.org http://edtechvision.org/?p=868


Challenge Based Learning

Link: http://ali.apple.com/cbl/

Are you interested in teaching ideas that truly motivate students, assists learners in becoming independent learners, work as teams, solve real world problems - making learning relevant to their lives? You should explore Challenge Based Learning methodology. This site contains explanations, white papers, videos, and testimonials from teachers on how Challenge Based Learning has changed their profession for the better.

Watch the Apple sponsored webinar at this link...


Android Malware on the Loose

Researchers have just discovered a powerful trojan called Geinimi targeted at Chinese Android users that could allow for anything from remote control of the phone to the creation of Android botnets. Read more at ZDNet.

TubeStick - New, small USB device lets you watch & record TV, and more...

TubeStick hybrid combines both digital and analog television with a white, simplistic design. The USB TV receiver from equinux can receive free-to-Air HDTV, digital (QAM) and analog cable television (NTSC) channels. The included adapter cable allows users to connect analog video sources such as camcorders to their Mac over S-video and Composite.

TubeStick hybrid also comes with equinux’s innovative TV Software, The Tube. For US users The Tube includes the comprehensive subscription based electronic program guide (EPG) TubeGuide US featuring detailed TV listings for US channels. The TubeToGo web service allows you to publish, display and manage all of your recordings in an online gallery with MobileMe or any other FTP server. With the optional TubeToGo iPhone app, you can even stream your recordings via the internet to your iPhone or iPod touch. Read more...
Curriculum & Internet Resources

FreeCiv - Free Simulation


“FreeCiv is a multiplayer, turn-based strategy game for workstations and personal computers inspired by the commercial proprietary Sid Meier’s Civilization series. The game's default settings are closest to Civilization II, both in gameplay and graphics (including the units and the isometric grid).

FreeCiv is available for most desktop computer operating systems. Released under the GNU General Public License, FreeCiv is free and open source software.

Players take the role of a tribal leader in 4000 B.C. that has to guide their people through the centuries. Over time, new technologies are discovered, which allow the construction of new city buildings and the deployment of new units. Players can wage war on one another or form diplomatic relationships.

The game ends when one civilization has eradicated all others, accomplished the goal of space colonization, or at a given deadline. If more than one civilization remains at the deadline, the player with the highest score wins. Points are awarded for the size of a civilization, its wealth, and cultural and scientific advances.”

FreeCiv for Mac or Windows can be downloaded at http://freeciv.wikia.com/wiki/Download

Another FreeCiv effort is available to play online with any browser that supports html5. Freeciv.net is an Open Source strategy game which can be played online against other players, or in single player mode against AI opponents.

http://www.freeciv.net/

Wolfram|Alpha - Answers at Your Fingertips

Wolfram|Alpha is a free online computational knowledge engine that generates answers to questions in real time by doing computations on its own vast internal knowledge base. Their long-term goal is to make all systematic knowledge immediately computable and accessible to everyone. This can be valuable to educators in many ways.

Link to Wolfram|Alpha: http://www.wolframalpha.com/

Link to Wolfram|Alpha’s Educator Page: http://www.wolframalpha.com/educators/

Think of Wolfram|Alpha as an intelligent search engine. You can type in an equation for example - 2+2. Wolfram|Alpha returns 4. You can enter a derivative equation - say, 3x^3+2x - Wolfram|Alpha returns the results, with applicable graphs. You can type in questions such as “What is the GDP of France?” and quickly retrieve the results, which Wolfram|Alpha has calculated for you from its huge knowledge database.

Be sure and visit the educator’s page, and explore the examples and videos there. You’ll learn a lot about how to use this valuable tool in the classroom. Youtube has a Wolfram|Alpha section with tutorials and interviews with Steve Wolfram.

http://www.youtube.com/user/WolframAlpha

Did you know that you can use your Android, eBook, iPods, iPhones, and iPads to access Wolfram|Alpha’s data? They have an app for that. At the Wolfram site, click on More and choose Mobile Apps.

You might also want to have a look at the widgets people have built. Widgets are mini-apps built on top of Wolfram|Alpha queries. You can build your own, or find useful widgets in the Widget Gallery. Share them in Facebook, Twitter, email, or anywhere else. You’ll find widgets that do sequences, display the night sky, calculate a future investment, roll dice and flip coins, and more.
NASA’s Know Your Earth Project

This summer marked the nationwide release of the new, multi-mission education and public outreach project named “Know Your Earth.” This project is a collaboration between 11 Earth-observing missions. It promotes understanding our planet and climate change through a fun, light-hearted and engaging three-minute video segment that has been released in almost 300 movie theaters nationwide as part of National CineMedia’s Lobby Entertainment Network. This video segment plays on screens in theater lobbies in more than 40 states, including major movie-going venues in Los Angeles, New York and Orlando.

The main purpose of the video segment is to reach a major audience, the movie-going public that might not seek out this scientific information on a regular basis. The video is designed to inspire all age groups and to further interest in learning about climate change.

Included with the Know Your Earth Segment is a 30-second video entitled “NASA Reveals a Most Unusual Planet,” which shows just how unusual our planet really is. This video segment is also available for museums, science centers, planetariums, parks, nature centers, zoos, aquariums and more.

To learn more about the project and to view the videos online, visit http://www.nasa.gov/knowyourearth

Inquiries about the Know Your Earth project should be directed to project lead Brian Campbell at Brian.A.Campbell@nasa.gov.

Wolfquest - Free Simulation Game

An immersive, 3D wildlife simulation game, WolfQuest challenges players to learn about wolf ecology by living the life of a wild wolf in Yellowstone National Park.

The single-player game consists of two episodes. In the first episode, Amethyst Mountain, players explore the wilderness, hunt elk, and encounter stranger wolves in a quest to find a mate. In the newly released second episode, Slough Creek, players find a den, establish a territory, raise pups and defend them from predators such as coyotes and grizzly bears. Online multiplayer games let up to five players form a pack to explore and hunt together.

The WolfQuest experience goes beyond the game with an active online community where you can discuss the game with other players, chat with wolf biologists, and share artwork and stories about wolves.

The game is available for both Macintosh and Windows PCs.

Free Simulation Game: The Colonization of America (FreeCol)

FreeCol is a turn-based strategy game based on the old game Colonization, and similar to Civilization. The objective of the game is to create an independent nation.

The game begins in the year 1492. You start with only a few colonists defying the stormy seas in their search for new land. The player gradually builds up colonies with help from the European king until no help from Europe is necessary, and independence can be declared. The player may trade with Europe using various natural resources which are collected by cities or acquired from trade with natives. The game is available for both Macintosh and Windows PCs. As of this writing, the current version is 0.9.5.

Link: http://www.freecol.org/

FB-Secure - Firefox Add-on

Link: http://liisp.uncc.edu/fbs/

FB-Secure is a Firefox extension that provides users a secure Facebook Application Installation process. Whenever you are about to install a Facebook application, FB-Secure will inform you of requested security permissions and also provide you with data to help you make your decision. It also allows you to turn off any of those permissions BEFORE you install the application. With FB-Secure you are able to control what permissions to grant to your Facebook applications.

What is LIISP? The Laboratory of Information Integration, Security & Privacy at UNC-Charlotte. liisp.uncc.edu. Installation: Once you download the extension, simply drag it onto an open FireFox window. NOTE: If it’s downloaded with a .zip extension, simply change/remove the .zip and make sure to give it a .xpi extension.

YouTube Demo: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QaJzizl3j1s&feature=player_embedded
Juice-Multiplatform Podcast Client

Link: http://juicereceiver.sourceforge.net/index.php

Want to listen to internet audio programs but can’t when they are scheduled? This program lets you create your own custom online audio anytime, anywhere.

Juice is technically a “Media Aggregator,” a program that allows you to select and download audio files from anywhere on the Internet to your desktop.

Juice makes the process easy by helping you select audio files from among the thousands of audio sources on the web and downloading those files to your computer. Once you select a feed or location, it will download those files automatically at times you specify and have the files waiting for you on your computer, so you don’t have to spend a lot of time manually selecting and waiting for downloads. You can play your selected audio files using iTunes or other “jukebox” software, or load them on to your iPod or other portable digital media player to play anytime you want. According to their website:

- Juice is free
- Juice supports more than 15 languages
- Juice supports multiple media players
- Juice is free software licensed under the GPL (open source)
- Juice’s primary purpose is to manage podcasts
- Juice has a built-in directory with thousands of listed podcast feeds
- Juice has auto cleanup, authentication, centralized feed management and much more
- Juice is accessible for blind and visually impaired users (windows version only)

Juice uses RSS (really simple syndication) to “feed” files to your computer. RSS usually involves headlines and text, but we’ve devised a way to have it move audio files. Once you’ve installed Juice, you can select podcasts to subscribe to in two different ways: Either clicking the selection button to see a directory of available podcasts or enter a URL for a podcast you’ve found on your own. You can set the scheduling options so that Juice scans for new downloads as often as you like, or you can control it manually. When it is done downloading new files, it adds them to your library, all ready to be played or synched to your MP3 device.

Aviary Artist Tools

Link: http://www.aviary.com

Aviary is a free set of online artist tools. Aviary is on a mission to make creation accessible to artists of all genres, from graphic design to audio editing. They’re a privately held company currently headquartered in New York City with team members around the world. Their founders also created Worth1000.com, a talented community of 500,000 digital artists that participate in amazing daily contests.

The tools are fairly sophisticated tools for creating and editing images, music and audio, and vector graphics. The tools are still in Alpha or Beta stage, and constantly improving.

There are online helps and videos to show you how to use the tools. As far as rights go, you own the full rights to all works you create. Aviary only retains a license to display any works you make viewable to the public within Aviary and in any external publication provided it’s in a way that promotes Aviary. For example, this means your work may be used to accompany a third-party newspaper article about Aviary.

Files are stored on the Aviary site, so they’re always accessible anywhere you have an internet connection. You’ll want to explore this tool!
Edit Web Pages Before They Print

A Firefox Add-on, Print Edit allows editing of the web page content while in Print Preview mode. Editing the web page prior to printing can compact the layout and remove unwanted content such as adverts, sidebars and blank pages.

Print Edit mode is entered from Print Preview mode by clicking on the Edit button next to the Close button on the toolbar. Alternatively, Print Edit mode can be entered from the Print Edit button menu on the main toolbar, or from the Print submenu on the context menu (after right-clicking the web page). The Print Edit button can be added to the main toolbar by right-clicking the toolbar and selecting Customize.

In Print Edit mode, any of the displayed content elements can be formatted, hidden or deleted, prior to printing in Print Preview mode. Click the Preview button to return to Print Preview mode or the Close button to return to normal browsing mode. It is possible to switch repeatedly between Print Edit mode and Print Preview mode.

Drag-n-Drop File Upload to the Cloud

For Macintosh users: CloudApp allows you to share images, links, music, videos and files. Here is how it works: choose a file, drag it to the menubar and let us take care of the rest. We provide you with a short link automatically copied to your clipboard that you can use to share your upload with co-workers and friends.

Additionally you can view, track and delete files right from your menubar.

Drag and drop files directly from Finder, define a hotkey to trigger an upload of a file or screenshot and print to CloudApp from any application on your Mac.

CloudApp allows you to share, access and organize your uploads from anywhere in the world through an intuitive web interface.

You can upload images on the go with our image uploader for the iPhone available soon on the iTunes App Store.

CloudApp is powered by Heroku and Amazon's Simple Storage Service. Files are redundantly stored on multiple devices across multiple storage facilities preventing data corruption and loss.

You can sleep well at night knowing your files are safe.

CloudApp ships with a range of plugins called Raindrops allowing you to extend functionality to your favorite applications for the Mac. Download Raindrops for iPhoto, iTunes, Photoshop and many more. Third-party developers can use the same technologies used by CloudApp's built-in functionality for their own applications.

For Windows Users: Uploading just by dragging to an icon in the taskbar, and more. It's CloudApp goodness brought to Windows, finally.

There is a free version (limited to ten 25MB uploads per day), and a paid version. Be sure to read the terms of each.
Apple Releases iOS 4.2 for iPod, iPhone, and iPad


iOS 4.2 Software Update - The free iOS 4.2 Software Update brings all-new features to your iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch. Just connect your device to your computer to download the update. The update for my 32GB iPod Touch was about 700 MB - and took a while to download, but the update went without a hitch. The new update contains many new features - especially for the iPad.

Multitasking on iPad - iOS 4.2 brings multitasking from iPhone and iPod touch to iPad. Everything happens smoothly and efficiently — without slowing down the performance of the foreground app or draining the battery unnecessarily.

Folders on iPad - Now your iPad has more room for more apps. Move apps into folders with drag-and-drop simplicity to declutter your Home screens and keep your apps organized for fast access to your favorites.

AirPrint - AirPrint makes it simple to print email, photos, web pages, and documents right from your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch. A few taps is all it takes to go from viewing it onscreen to holding a printed copy. There's no software to download, no drivers to install, and no cables to connect. Now all we need are more AirPrint capable printers. As of this writing, the only printers on the market that support AirPrint are from Hewlett-Packard. For more information, view HP's AirPrint page...


AirPlay - AirPlay lets you stream digital media wirelessly from your iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch to your Apple TV and AirPlay-enabled speakers. So you can watch movies and photos on your widescreen TV and play music through the best speakers in the house. More third party vendors are planning to release AirPlay compatible equipment in the near future. Initial reports I'm seeing on the web are saying there are some bugs that need to be worked out on this - such as movies shot with your iPod not streaming to the Apple TV.

Find My iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch - the MobileMe feature that helps you locate your missing device and protect its data - is now free on any iPhone 4, iPad, or fourth-generation iPod touch running iOS 4.2.3 Once you set it up, you can find your lost device on a map, display a message on its screen, remotely set a passcode lock, and initiate a remote wipe to delete your data. And if you eventually find your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch, you can restore everything from your last backup.

Overall, I feel like iOS 4.2 is a good forward move, especially for the iPad.

JustNotes for Macintosh

Link: http://selfcoded.com/app/justnotes/

JustNotes is a straightforward, free note-taking program that syncs with SimpleNote for the iPad and iPhone. Search by keywords or tags. Attractive interface allows you to easily add or delete notes. Hide and show with a menu bar item.

JustNotes always runs in the background with a small footprint. Click the statusbar icon to show it when you need it.

JustNotes supports the SimpleNote tagging system which is also synchronized to all other clients. You can email your notes with just a click. You can import your notes from plaintext (.txt) and Evernote xml (.enex) files. Exporting is also supported.

It also includes an integrated search function. Search for keywords and tags (@tag) throughout your notes. The highlighted keywords help you to find them quickly.

The Unarchiver for Macintosh

Link: http://wakaba.c3.cx/s/apps/unarchiver.html

This free program decompresses several different compression formats, including some of the obscure ones that OS X can’t handle. Interface fits in nicely with the Finder. Supported file formats include Zip, Tar-GZip, Tar-BZip2, RAR, 7-zip, LhA, Stuffit and many other old and obscure formats.
**Unhappy with iTunes Ping Button (Mac)?**

1. Quit iTunes if it’s open.
2. Go to your utilities folder (in the Finder, press command-shift-U)
3. Terminal.app and enter:
   
   ```
   defaults write com.apple.iTunes hide-ping-dropdown 1
   ```

   When iTunes is restarted, the Ping buttons should have disappeared. To reverse, just repeat, using 0 rather than 1.

   Would you like the old store arrows back again? After you have turned off the Ping buttons, type the following in terminal.

   ```
   defaults write com.apple.iTunes show-store-link-arrows 1
   ```

   Again, you can reverse this by replacing the “1” with a “0”.

   Thanks to MacWorld Tips!

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**Viewing PDF Files in Google Chrome on the Macintosh**

Whitson Gordon posted the following hint on MacWorld.com’s web blog:

“Reading PDFs in your browser, instead of downloading them and reading them in an app like Preview, is a nice convenience. But Safari is the only major Mac browser that has a read-PDFs-in-the-browser option turned on by default. Mac OS X Hints reader Typhoon14 notes that Chrome has the same feature, but it’s disabled by default; he also knows how easy it is to enable it:

Type about:plugins in the Chrome omnibox. Looking through the list of plugins, you should see a disabled one called Chrome PDF Viewer; click Enable under it.

You should now be able to view PDFs in Chrome. The viewer is very fast. Resizing controls are available in the bottom-right corner of the browser window. Currently, there’s no loading indicator for PDFs; if you click on a large one, you might think the tab is frozen, but it’s probably just still waiting for the PDF to finish downloading.

The plugin does have a few rough edges; occasional PDFs (particularly those with restrictions on printing, copying, and so forth) will not display properly. The vast majority should, however, show up just fine. This plugin doesn’t do much beyond display PDFs, so you’ll still probably want Preview or Adobe Acrobat for more intense PDF work. But for basic viewing, the built-in viewer is really handy.”

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**Did You Know Mac’s Spotlight Tricks?**

Macintosh OSX’s Spotlight can work as a calculator. If you type 342-138, along with all the other usual search results, you’ll see one that the calculator application returns: 204. If you press Command-C with the result selected to copy, that result will be copied into your clipboard and you can paste it anywhere in any document using the Paste command. This same copy command works with other results in Spotlight. For example, if you search for and find a file, you can copy it in Spotlight, then paste a copy of that actual file in any folder window you wish.

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**View Macintosh Pages, Keynote, & Numbers files in Windows**

Have you ever had the problem of being a Windows user, and a Macintosh person has sent you a file from the iWork Suite (Pages, Keynote, or Numbers)? You couldn’t open it, right? Well, there is a trick you can use to view these files in Windows.

Pages 09 files are actually an archive containing a number of files. If you change the .pages extension to .zip - you can then unzip the file and view its contents. In there, you’ll find a Quicklook folder - which Macintoshes use to use the Quicklook feature in the Mac operating system. Inside the Quicklook folder, you’ll see a file called Preview.pdf - this is a PDF version of the Pages document. You won’t be able to edit this file, but you can view and print it. Keynote and Numbers files work the same way.

The only gotcha is that the Macintosh user must leave the “Include Preview in Document” box checked when saving an iWorks file - it’s checked by default, so the user would have to uncheck the box to eliminate the preview.

Thanks to MacWorld for passing along this tip!
AppFresh for Macintosh

Link: http://metaquark.de/appfresh/

From the website: “AppFresh helps you to keep all applications, widgets, preference panes and application plugins installed on your Mac up to date. All from one place, easy to use and fully integrated into Mac OS X. AppFresh works by checking the excellent osx.iusethis.com for new versions and lets you download and install available updates easily.

How do you keep track of the latest versions for all your installed applications? Apple’s built-in Software Update helps keep software like iTunes and Mac OS X updated, but what about the rest? A lot of applications on your Mac don’t include their own update checker and even if they do, they don’t work from a central place. We believe updating an application should not be done at the moment you want to use it. That’s why AppFresh provides a central place to control the software updates available to your Mac, integrating most popular and most common update checking technologies such as Apple Software Update, Sparkle, Microsoft AutoUpdate, Adobe Updater, osx.iusethis.com and more.

We want you to spend your time using your applications, not keeping them up to date!

Careful, Though! Please note: AppFresh is still work in progress and released as a Development Preview. We cannot assure that AppFresh is working correctly on every setup. Although installing applications using AppFresh has been heavily tested, please make sure to have a working backup.

Features:

Apple Updates: AppFresh integrates native update checking for Apple software and system updates, so you don’t need to run Apple’s Software Update separately.

Sparkle Updates: By fully supporting RSS based Sparkle updates a great percentage of self updating applications can be updated using AppFresh.

Microsoft AutoUpdate: We check for Microsoft AutoUpdate 1 and 2, so you won’t need the update checkers shipped with Microsoft Office 2004 and 2008. (Adobe will be available in AppFresh1.x)

Download and Install: AppFresh enables you to download any number of updates and automatically install them if you want. It also helps locating downloads and sends Growl notifications when the jobs is done.

Widgets, PrefPanes, Plugins: Update applications as well as widgets, preference panes and plugins. Supported plugins include InputManagers, Mail, Addressbook and iPhoto plugins as well as some kernel extensions.” This is a free application.

SyncTwoFolders 1.7.2 for Mac

Link: http://tcfj.pagesperso-orange.fr/site/index.html

Have you ever wanted to sync the contents of two folders? Have you wanted your computer look at each file and pick the newer of the two and keep those, while throwing away the older versions? I keep two hard drive backups of all my music, photos, movies, and other purchases (maybe I’m paranoid, but I’ve had a backup drive go corrupt on me before). They are terabyte drives, so if I copy the contents of one drive to the other, completely replacing every file - the copy process takes about an entire day.

With the free SyncTwoFolders for Mac, I can make all the update changes to one drive, and then sync to the 2nd backup drive - which takes only moments.

This program synchronizes two folders. The oldest files will be replaced by the most recent, and in certain cases, some files will be removed.

Be sure to use the help tags to familiarize yourself with the options.

Be sure of what you are doing when you start a synchronization. If in doubt, do a Simulation. This will show you what will happen if you choose to synchronize, but no files will be replaced or removed! I always do a simulation first so I know exactly what’s going to happen to files before I perform the actual synchronization.

You’ll find this program to be a real time saver.
Carbon Copy Cloner (Mac)

Link: http://www.bombich.com/

Carbon Copy Cloner is one of the best tools for backing up your Macintosh that I know of. You can use it to clone your entire Macintosh to a backup hard drive - which makes a bootable backup, by the way. You can backup files you choose, or do incremental backups.

From the website: “The key to a successful backup plan is to actually do the backups regularly. When left to a human, the task often gets tacked on to the end of a very long list of other things to do. When you eventually have a catastrophe, the data is simply gone. You know that feeling — you just lost six years of family photos. Your kids being born, their first birthdays, their first everything. The answer to this is consistent and regular backups, placed on a schedule and handled automatically by your computer.

CCC 3 features an interface designed to make the cloning and backup procedure very intuitive. In addition to general backup, CCC can also clone one volume to another, copying every file to create an exact replica of your source volume. CCC’s block-level copy offers the absolute fastest performance and highest fidelity in the industry!”

I use Carbon Copy Cloner to make an image of a Mac, and then can move from Mac to Mac in my computer lab and clone the others from that image. A great tool. Donations suggested.

Onyx for Macintosh

Link: http://www.titanium.free.fr/download.php?sid=b1cc55fa4999c73d058f649fca8fc8b03

This free software verifies the startup disk and the structure of its system files, runs system maintenance, configures some hidden parameters, deletes caches, removes unneeded files and folders, and more.

Versions available for Jaguar (Mac OSX 10.2), Panther (10.3), Tiger (10.4), Leopard (10.5), and Snow Leopard (10.6). Be sure to get the right version for your Mac. If you’re not sure, click on your Apple menu and choose “About this Mac.” You can see which version of Mac OSX you’re running.

Tip: Search Only Current Folder

Have you ever been frustrated when you wanted to search a folder you’ve opened on your Mac? You type the search terms in the search box, but by default, you get results for your entire Mac hard drive rather than just your active folder! With Snow Leopard, you can change that default...

1) Return to your desktop, and in the Finder menu, choose preferences.

2) Click on the Advanced tab. At the bottom, you’ll see a dropdown menu for “When performing a search.” Change it from “Search this Mac” to “Search the Current Folder.”

Keep that Mac Awake

Link: http://www.lightheadsw.com/caffeine/

Caffeine is a free, tiny program that puts an icon in the right side of your menu bar. Click it to prevent your Mac from automatically going to sleep, dimming the screen or starting screen savers. Click it again to go back. Right-click the icon to show the menu.

This little app is great when you’re doing presentations in front of a group, and don’t want your computer to go to sleep, or the screensaver to kick in while you’re presenting.

Close the Finder Preferences window and then try your search again. This time it will only search the current, active folder window. If you ever need to change it back to the default again, you know where to go.
Square Privacy Cleaner (Win)

Link:  http://www.novirusthanks.org/products/square-privacy-cleaner/

Square Privacy Cleaner is a fast, powerful, and easy to use privacy protection tool, able to remove all the unwanted history data on your computer. With one simple mouse click, Square Privacy Cleaner allows you to erase Windows traces, recent opened documents, prefetch files, clipboard cache, MRU lists, temp folders, junk files, making PC operation fast and smooth. You can clean Internet traces, like cookies, history and cache of popular web browsers, such as Mozilla Firefox, Internet Explorer, Opera, Google Chrome. Cleaning of third-parties applications is also supported, is possible to erase WinRAR history, WinZIP history, Java cache, Java logs, Java temporary folders, Media Player Classic history, Borland Delphi history, Microsoft Office history, and many more.

Square Privacy Cleaner allows you to remove also locked index.DAT files and generic locked files on the next reboot of the system. During cleaning process, our program will try to terminate running processes of the files that reside in temporary folders or in other folders that have been selected to be cleaned. Free.

Puppy Linux

Link:  http://puppylinux.org

Puppy Linux is an operating system for computers. Other well-known operating systems are Microsoft Windows, Apple OSX, and MS-DOS. Puppy Linux is based on GNU/Linux. It is completely free and open source software.

- Small size, ~100MB! This lends itself to some very useful and unique features.
- ‘Live’ booting from CDs, DVDs, USB flash drives, and other portable media.
- Runs from RAM, making it unusually fast even in old PCs and in netbooks with solid state storage media.
- Very low minimum system requirements.
- Boot time is well under a minute, 30-40 seconds in most systems.
- Includes a wide range of applications: wordprocessors, spreadsheets, internet browsers, games, image editors and many utilities. Extra software in the form of dotpets. There is a GUI Puppy Software Installer included.
- Puppy is easy to use and little technical knowledge is assumed. Most hardware is automatically detected.
- Puppy Linux is also a great tool for removing malware from Windows PCs.

Soluto-Speed Up Your PC

Link:  http://soluto.com

Using a PC can be a deeply frustrating experience. We have all come to expect our computers to be sluggish or unresponsive at times, for no apparent reason.

Soluto’s goal is to bring an end to the frustrations PC users encounter. Their patent-pending low level driver technology detects when you’re frustrated by your PC and tells you which application is causing it. Soluto harnesses the power of the crowd to learn which actions really eliminate frustrations and improve user experience, and leverages this user wisdom for the benefit of all PC users.

The first time the free Soluto is installed, it will ask you to reboot your machine - and it’s learning your bootup process. Once it’s done it will show you all the boot processes, divided into three categories: No Brainer, Potentially Removeable, and Cannot be Removed. Hover over each process to learn more about what it does. If it’s something that you don’t need running immediately, you can change its bootup behavior. Go to the website to learn more about this useful too.

The Handy Start Menu for Windows

Link:  http://www.handystartmenu.com

From their website: “Like so many of us, you must have experienced the frustration of trying to find an application in the Start menu. This happens because the Start menu is piled full of countless programs. Most likely you are using the desktop and Quick Launch bar to create shortcuts for quick program launch, so that you do not have to open the cluttered Start menu. If it is so, you have come to the right place.

We have designed a small utility called Handy Start Menu that enhances the standard menu and eliminates its inconveniences. The utility makes the menu so convenient that you will no longer have to create piles of shortcuts on the desktop, create complex panels in the Quick Launch bar and spend time browsing through the long list, trying to find an application that you have not placed on the desktop or Quick Launch bar.

The first thing you will see after the installation of Handy Start Menu is a short menu with a list of programs which are grouped by categories (utilities, office programs, graphic editors, etc.). Our utility groups applications automatically. As a result, it is much easier to find a program in the list of 5-7 items than browse through the long list with dozens of items. Grouping can help you find and run applications much quicker than before.

To start applications from Handy Start Menu, you will only need to click on the folder with the name of a program, and our utility will automatically find the shortcut and run that application. You will no longer have to open all subfolders and look for a shortcut that starts an application. It also saves time considerably.” This utility is free.
ArtWeaver Free for Windows

Link: http://www.artweaver.de/home-en/

Artweaver Free is a freeware painting program which is suitable for beginners but also suitable for advanced users. You can record all your steps and replay them afterwards or provide them to other users. Also there are many tools and features like layers and effect filter in ArtWeaver Free.

Artweaver is available in two versions. The Artweaver Free version for free and an Artweaver Plus version with costs which has more features than the free version. You can try Artweaver Plus for 14 days without restrictions before deciding to purchase Artweaver Plus.

Gizmo’s Best Windows AntiVirus Picks


“My top pick if you’re looking for the best protection against virus, spyware and rootkit threats. AntiVir is very light on resources and the detection rate of malware is outstanding, better than almost every other antivirus according to tests.” (Source)

“High Quality Alternatives:

Microsoft Security Essentials. “By far the best choice for average users because of the minimal user interaction required and clean interface. The detection rates are very good, in particular the detection of zero-day threats and rootkits. Even more impressive, it has very few false positives and is light on resources.”

avast! Free Antivirus: “An excellent free antivirus program that many users prefer. Its detection rates are on par with AntiVir, it’s light on resources, and it has the most features: full real-time capabilities (web, e-mail, IM, P2P and network shields), boot-time scanning, and a behavioral blocker.”

Provides an essential layer of protection from a multitude of virus, trojan, worm, spyware, adware, dialer, keylogger and rootkit infections. Most current antivirus have at least reasonably good detection rates of all forms of malware. We recommend using only one antivirus program for real-time protection.”

Again, there is a Premium version of Avira available, if you’re willing to buy it.

Gizmo’s Best Free Portable Program Uninstaller - Revo Uninstaller

“Revo uninstalls software and scans for any leftover remnants. It’s “the only freeware product I know of that will make a decent job of cleaning up a failed install.” Additionally, click “Tools” for its startup manager, list of windows tools, and junk files scanner. Don’t miss the “Tracks Cleaner” right below the Junk Scanner for its several other cleaners (browser cleaner, Office cleaner, Windows cleaner, free space wiper, file shredder). Verified TruPortable.” (Source)

I like Revo because it does a very thorough job uninstalling software on a Windows PC. If the program you wish to uninstall has an uninstaller file, Revo will invoke it, and watch it uninstall. Then it will go and find any leftover files, shortcut links, folders, registry entries, etc., and give you the opportunity to delete them as well. I have found it to work exceptionally well on almost every program I’ve tried to uninstall.

A more powerful, paid version is available as a trial download. It contains additional tools such as: System Restore, Network Diagnostics, Network Information, Security Center, System Properties, System Information, TCP/IP Netstat Command, On-Screen Keyboard, Disk Defragmenter, Services, Shared Folders, Group Policy.
You're doing before you hit the delete button. Be careful and know what you're doing. Judicious use of the gray matter between your ears. “... if you're willing to look and carefully consider the information presented, Auslogics' free Duplicate File Finder can help you reclaim enormous amounts of disk space. The trick with any duplicate file cleaner lies in having different names. It would be helpful, for example, when two identical mp3 tracks or video files have different names. The trick with any duplicate file cleaner lies in having different names. It would be helpful, for example, when two identical mp3 tracks or video files have different names. If you have a music collection of several hundreds or even thousands mp3-files, you may want to sort them by deleting the primary source of identical files. If you have a music collection of several hundreds or even thousands mp3-files, you may want to sort them by deleting the primary source of identical files. Keep unnecessary duplicates on your computer means wasting valuable hard disk space. Auslogics Duplicate File Finder (Free) will find and delete duplicate files so you won't experience lack of free disk space! Improving computer performance by deleting duplicate files Identical files not only waste your hard disk space, but also may cause system slowdowns. By deleting duplicate files you can reduce time needed to defragment your hard drives and minimize time used by antivirus to scan your computer. Sort and organize your media collections Media files collections, such as music, video, images and photos, often become the primary source of identical files. If you have a music collection of several hundreds or even thousands mp3-files, you may want to sort them by deleting identical tracks. With Auslogics Duplicate File Finder you can organize your media files and increase free disk space needed to enlarge your collection. Find duplicate files by content! Auslogics Duplicate File Finder has the MDS search engine which allows the program to search for duplicate files by content, regardless of other match criteria. It would be helpful, for example, when two identical mp3 tracks or video files have different names. Computer World says, “... if you're willing to look and carefully consider the information presented, Auslogics' free Duplicate File Finder can help you reclaim enormous amounts of disk space. The trick with any duplicate file cleaner lies in judicious use of the gray matter between your ears.” Be careful and know what you're doing before you hit the delete button.
SyncToy 2.1 is a free application that synchronizes files and folders between locations. Typical uses include sharing files, such as photos, with other computers and creating backup copies of files and folders.

There are files from all kinds of sources that we want to store and manage. Files are created by our digital cameras, e-mail, cell phones, portable media players, camcorders, PDAs, and laptops. Increasingly, computer users are using different folders, drives, and even different computers (such as a laptop and a desktop) to store, manage, retrieve and view files. Yet managing hundreds or thousands of files is still largely a manual operation. In some cases it is necessary to regularly get copies of files from another location to add to primary location; in other cases there is a need to keep two storage locations exactly in sync. Some users manage files manually, dragging and dropping from one place to another and keeping track of whether the locations are synchronized in their heads. Other users may use two or more applications to provide this functionality.

Now there is an easier way. SyncToy, a free PowerToy for Microsoft Windows, is an easy to use, highly customizable program that helps users to do the heavy lifting involved with the copying, moving, and synchronization of different directories. Most common operations can be performed with just a few clicks of the mouse, and additional customization is available without additional complexity. SyncToy can manage multiple sets of folders at the same time; it can combine files from two folders in one case, and mimic renames and deletes in another case. Unlike other applications, SyncToy actually keeps track of renames to files and will make sure those changes get carried over to the synchronized folder.

System Information for Windows - Know More About Your PC

Link: [http://www.gtopala.com/siw-download.html](http://www.gtopala.com/siw-download.html)

There is both a free version and paid version. Computer World says, “SIW shows you an amazing amount of detail about your PC and its software. Just don’t let the installer put other stuff on your machine.” From the website: “SIW is an advanced System Information for Windows tool that gathers detailed information about your system properties and settings and displays it in an extremely comprehensible manner.

SIW can create a report file (CSV, HTML, TXT or XML), and is able to run in batch mode (for Computer Software and Hardware Inventory, Asset Inventory Tracking, Audit Software Licenses, Software License Compliance).

The system information is divided into few major categories:

- **Software Inventory**: Operating System, Installed Software and Hotfixes, Processes, Services, Users, Open Files, System Uptime, Installed Codecs, Software Licenses (Product Keys / Serial Numbers / CD Key), Passwords Recovery.
- **Hardware Inventory**: Motherboard, CPU, Sensors, BIOS, chipset, PCI/AGP, USB and ISA/PnP Devices, Memory, Video Card, Monitor, Disk Drives, CD/DVD Devices, SCSI Devices, S.M.A.R.T., Ports, Printers.
- **Network Information**: Network Cards, Network Shares, currently active Network Connections, Open Ports.
- **Network Tools**: MAC Address Changer, Neighborhood Scan, Ping, Trace, Statistics
- **Miscellaneous Tools**: Eureka! (Reveal lost passwords hidden behind asterisks), Monitor Test, Shutdown / Restart.

SIW is a standalone utility that does not require installation (Portable Freeware) - one less installed program on your PC as well the fact that you can run the program directly from an USB flash drive, from a network drive or from a domain login script.

SIW can be distributed freely (ftp, archives, CD-ROMs ...).

**Client Platform**: Windows 7 / Vista / Windows XP / 2000 / NT4 / Me / 98 / Media Center / Tablet PC / WinRE / Bart PE / Winternals ERD Commander

**Server Platform**: Windows Server 2008 (R2) / Windows Server 2003 (R2) / Windows Server 2000 / NT4

SIW (System Information for Windows) does not contain any form of malware, including but not limited to: adware, spyware, popups, viruses, Trojans and backdoors.”
Jaangle - Music Player & Organizer

Link: http://www.jaangle.com/

Jaangle (formerly Teen Spirit) is a free music player and organizer software. It categorizes your mp3, ogg, wma, avi etc collection and displays it in easy to browse, user interface. It has a quality audio - video player and also an integrated tag editor.

You start by adding a folder which contains your music files (mp3, wma, avi, mpg etc). Jaangle scans and reads the available tag info. The artists appear in the tree like control. Each time you click on an artist all his tracks can be seen in the list pane, artist biography and image are automatically downloaded from the internet and displayed in the information pane. By double clicking a track in the list you hear the music playing. More info may appear (if available) in the info pane like lyrics or comments.

Jaangle is a Microsoft © Windows software application and it is tested in Windows XP/2003, Vista. (There has been reports of failed attempts to use it over W.I.N.E. in Linux). It is certified by softpedia as 100% free of malware, including adware, spyware, viruses, trojans and backdoors.

Licence: Free Software (Freeware). (The source code will be released under GPL soon).

All2All Converter

Link: http://klondice.com/

How can I convert from .pdf file to text file to edit? Or convert my own .wma to .mp3 for my favorite mp3-player? Or transform my photos from digital camera from .jpg to smaller .jpg to send it to my friend who use dial-up Internet? What program can open .djvu file? How can I see .3gp video from my cell phone on my computer? What program can convert a page from a scanner to Microsoft Word text?

If you ask yourself questions like that sometimes, this application can help you.

All2All Converter is the encyclopedia of file extensions and converters directory in the only program.

It contains over 3000 file extensions and 320 file format converters.

It is completely FREEWARE.

PicPick - Screen Capture Utility for Windows

Free for personal or nonprofit use; $19.99, down to $7.99 each for 50-plus licenses

Link: http://picpick.wiziple.net/

PicPick is user friendly and full of features for creating your image, suitable for software developers, graphic designers and home user.

It is an all-in-one program that provides full-featured screen capture tool, intuitive image editor, color picker, color palette, pixel ruler, protractor, crosshair and even whiteboard.

It has not only everything you need, but it loads fast, sits quietly in the system tray until needed.

This software is provided as freeware for only personal use. In this case, you are granted the right to use this program free of charge. Otherwise, you need to pay for a license for commercial use.
For all you teachers and technologists that are now using iPads, iPod Touch, or iPhones - have you ever wondered how to get a screenshot of something on your device into a PowerPoint or Keynote presentation? Look no further - here's how:

1. Click the Power button on the top right corner of your iPad, and while holding it down, click the “Home Button”.
2. You’ll see the screen ‘flash’ white and hear a camera ‘clicking’ sound. Now open the Photos app on your iPad, iPhone, or iPod Touch.
3. You’ll see the screenshot you just took as a thumbnail. Tap that photo to view the screenshot full screen.
4. From here, you can either email the screenshot to yourself from your device, or connect the device to your computer and use iPhoto to retrieve the file. To email the screenshot, in your photos app, click the arrow in the corner and choose “email photo” from the list of choice offered there.
5. If you use Keynote on your iPad, you can choose “copy photo” instead of email, and paste it into your presentation.

Red Laser iPhone Barcode App (Free)


Scan faster. Even without autofocus! RedLaser uses state-of-the-art barcode recognition that can read virtually any product barcode. Works great on the first-gen, 3G, and 3GS!

Features

- Scans UPC, EAN, UPC-E and EAN-8 barcodes!
- QR code scanning including URL’s, contact info, calendar events, emails and more!
- Searches for prices with Google Product Search (US, UK), TheFind Product Search, eBay and Half.com
- Local search powered by TheFind
- Local search locates books in nearby libraries
- High-res Retina display support for iPhone 4
- iPhone 4 LED light option during scanning
- Email a list of products
- Send barcodes as email attachment ✉️ Great for inventory!
- Search ANY website using a custom URL (How-To at redlaser.com/apps)
- Automatic search localization for USD, EUR, and GBP

Flipboard for iPad (Free)


“Named Apple’s iPad App of the Year and one of TIME’s top 50 innovations of 2010, Flipboard is a fast, beautiful way to flip through the news, photos and updates your friends are sharing on Facebook, Twitter, Google Reader and Flickr. See your social media in a magazine layout that is easy to scan and fun to read. Share articles and photos, comment on posts, and like or favorite anything. Customize your Flipboard with sections created from your favorite people, lists, groups and blogs on Twitter, Facebook, Flickr and Google Reader.”

This is an elegant interface to many educational sites!
iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch Apps

TED (Free)


Riveting talks by remarkable people, free to the world.

TED presents talks from some of the world’s most fascinating people: education radicals, tech geniuses, medical mavericks, business gurus and music legends. Find more than 700 TEDTalk videos (with more added each week) on the official TED app.

TEDTalks are delivered in high or low res formats based on your network connectivity. Curate your own playlist. Watch them later, even when you can’t be online.

The entire TEDTalks library is at your fingertips. Sort views by recency or popularity. Find something by tags, themes, or related talks. Tell us how much time you have and let us guide you to a delightful playlist.

NASA App for iPad (Free)


Come explore with NASA. Now on your iPad.

Features:
- Thousands of images from NASA IOTD, APOD and NASAlimages.org
- On demand NASA Videos from around the agency
- Live Streaming of NASA TV
- Current NASA Mission Information
- Launch Information & Countdown clocks
- Current Visible Passes for the International Space Station (ISS)
- ISS and Earth Orbiting Satellite Tracker
- NASA Twitter feeds from around the agency
- Facebook® Connect and Integrated Twitter™ client for easy sharing
- Map and links to all of the NASA centers
- Quick links to the NASA topic areas
- Featured content section

-- WiFi or 3G network connection required. --

Coloring Farm (Free)


This just changed from a paid app to a free one. Coloring Farm is designed for children, which includes the following features:

1. There are 18 farm theme sketches.
2. Touch operation is designed for iPad especially.
3. You can draw the pictures using 14 colors.
4. You can save your artwork if you like, and enjoy it in Gallery mode.

Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)


The Museum of Modern Art in New York is home to the world’s finest collection of modern and contemporary art. Now you can carry MoMA with you wherever you go. Use the MoMA App to find out about current exhibitions, plan a visit, browse or search tens of thousands of works in the collection, take multimedia tours, or learn about artists and art terms. Take a photo through MoMA Snaps and send it to a friend, or choose your playlist to create a soundtrack for your MoMA visit. FREE
iPad, iPhone, & iPod Touch Apps

Preschool Lite (Free)

Link:  http://itunes.apple.com/app/id400885347

Preschool Lite is a powerful educational tool for the toddlers, approved by teachers, parents and toddlers; it’s a great tool for learning that help kids to explore different words, letter, animals, sounds, colors, etc in a funny and exciting way. It provides hours of fun, laughter and learning. Toddlers can play and learn without the need for any extra help.

Features:

• My First Word helps kids to make words using alphabets. Drag all jumbled alphabets to make the word, learn to recognize and spell each while you drag and play with it
• Learn to write alphabets and number with choice for color, voice for alphabets and the word for each.
• Animal kingdom: Kids can play with the animal-sounds and learn which animal makes the sound.
• My First step: Teaches alphabets and numbers with appropriate example images and sounds.

Sight Words Read and Spell (Free)

Link:  http://itunes.apple.com/app/id398416867#

Features:

1) 300 sight words from Dolch list
2) Presented by grade level
3) Two modes available:
   - Read the sight words
   - Spell the sight words!
4) Once the word is read/spelled correctly it can be marked off by touching the checkmark against the word. This helps to filter out the words that have already been mastered and the ones that need to be practiced.
5) Once all the words in a level are checked you get a checkmark against that level on the main menu.
6) In read mode: you can also review all the words together on the review screen where the words are presented in list format. Very useful for parents to go over the list and quiz the child.

Shape Puzzle HD Free - Word Learning Game for Kids

Link:  http://itunes.apple.com/app/id397674808

Babies love Jigsaw puzzles! Shape Puzzle is a jigsaw puzzle especially designed for little kids. After you complete a picture, a cute turtle will pops out and tell you the name of the object you just assembled. What’s more, each object belongs to a certain scene and after you finish all the items, a vivid scene appears!

Shape Puzzle attracts babies by colorful pictures and babies can learn many words while playing. They remember the words better because of the vivid images of objects and scenes.

2 to 6 is the best age to develop babies’ visual memory. Shape Puzzle provides a number of interesting objects and scenes to babies so that they can easily learn new words and through repetitive assembly of pictures remember them easily.

It’s so much fun and your baby will love it!

• each scene contains 15 to 20 puzzles
• each puzzle contains 5 to 10 objects
• each scene contains 15 to 20 new words
• More scenes will be added to new versions…
iPad, iPhone, & iPod Touch Apps

Math Fractions (Free)
Link:  http://itunes.apple.com/app/id396297177
This app provides a quick and simple way for students to learn and understand fractions step-by-step. They will be engaged to learn through a variety of ways such as interactive demonstrations, hands-on exercises and by answering simple multiple choice questions. Also, this app can be used to teach.
As the lesson progresses, notes will be shown to explain each step only when it is necessary. This is to help students to learn better.
The entire lesson is divided into four parts:
1. Dividing Regions Into Equal Parts
   • Learn what are equal parts
   • Learn how to divide regions into equal parts
   • Learn how to name them
2. Fraction Basics
   • Understanding numerator and denominator of a fraction
   • Learn how to write fractions
   • Learn how to express fractions in words
3. Multiple Choice Practice Questions
   • Useful as a quick test
   • Pictures in each question shuffle
   • Answers and final score will be shown
4. Video on Understanding Fractions
   • Extra learning material
   • A quick overview on proper fractions, improper fractions and mixed fraction
   • The video is computer animated
The learning process when using this app:
1) Each part (except for the practice part & video) begins with an introduction.
2) After the introduction, each step will guide the student to learn. The student will also be engaged to think while learning.
3) After all the steps are completed, a summary will be shown.

ABC Magic Phonics (Free)
Link:  http://itunes.apple.com/app/id404048724
This app will help your child learn the sounds of the letters of the alphabet.
LOWER CASE: 95% of the printed word in books and periodicals is lowercase. Give your child the advantage of learning lowercase letters first.
LETTER SOUNDS: The sounds of the letters are what give children the tools for reading. Just like counting skills are the foundations of addition, knowing the sounds of the letters are the foundations of reading. Give your child the advantage of learning the sounds of the letters!
RHYTHM: The repetition and rhythm of the words will help your child memorize the sounds of the letters.
VISUAL: The photograph images and colored letters will help your child in learning the letter sounds.
AUDITORY: Children speak all the sounds and words. Each letter and picture will repeat a sound when touched. Most young learners child will enjoy repeating the sounds they hear on this app.
FOCUS: All distracting bells and whistles have been removed to allow your child to focus on the essential skill to be learned here-associating a letter with its most commonly occurring sound.
A team of educators using accelerated learning techniques and Montessori principles developed this app. Please give them your feedback and suggestions.

Ace Kids Math Games HD Free Lite - for iPad (Free)
Link:  http://itunes.apple.com/app/id367798719
Easily teaches kids how to Count, Add, and Subtract VISUALLY using fun animations with a prize reward system for completing each level.
SIMPLE RULES:
1. Visually solve the math question
2. Touch the correct star answer button
3. Complete the levels to unlock secret prizes
NOTE TO PARENTS: Please adjust the game to fit your child’s skill level in the setting area. Use this as a teaching tool that makes learning math FUN, starting with the basic skills of Counting, Adding, & Subtracting.
iPad, iPhone, & iPod Touch Apps

Approach to Montessori - Numbers HD Free Lite


KEY FEATURES:

• Full comprehension of numbers Zero (0) through Ten (10)
• Number recognition, writing, quantity, sequencing (spatial relationship)
• Foundations of Math
• Reading not required. Audio instructions/feedbacks and visual elements are used throughout.
• Fine Motor Skills for hand-eye coordination training
• Settings adapts to each Child's learning style
• Guided by a team of Certified Montessori educators and parents

SIX MONTESSORI GAMES IN ONE

Six discrete yet related Montessori activities provide a strong foundation for number concepts, emphasizing on recognition, quantity, sequencing (spatial relationship), writing, and speaking.

1. DANCING NUMBERS: Enjoy a dancing numbers show sync to music, learning the numbers by watching them dance, or play the question and answer game.

2. TRACING: Learn the tracing stroke of each number by watching and practice it. Touch the animals to learn to count.

3. NUMBER RODS: Play and see if your child can order the rods in forward, reverse, or random order. Enforces the concept of number quantity and spatial relationship between each number.

4. BEAD STAIRS: Play and see if your child can order the beads in forward, reverse, or random order. Enforces the concept of number quantity and spatial relationship between each number.

5. NUMBER BLOCKS: Learn number counting by dragging the blocks to the correct spot.

6. CARDS & COUNTER: Learn number counting and quantity as well as distinguish between even and odds based on drawing the line between that pieces.

POWER SETTINGS:

The POWER in this learning tool is the ability to change the setting (in each of the six games above) to fit your child’s learning level and is design to grow with your child. To adjust this, in each of the games, touch the "info" link to customize that game for your child. Each activity comes with recommendations on lesson plans to reinforce the concept comprehension.

ABC Phonics Animals Writing HD Free Lite - for iPad

Link: http://itunes.apple.com/app/id376573687

Learn ABC recognition, writing, and listening skills with animals.

2 WRITING MODES: 1) ALPHABET LETTERS: Write the Capital and Lower-Case letters and learning the letter recognition along with the sound. 2) WORDS: Hear the animal name, write the animal name, and learning the spelling in the process.

FEATURE SUMMARY:

• Phonetic sounds of each letter of the word - Touch the letter
• Pronunciations of the full word - Touch the word
• Animal Sounds (i.e. dog barks) - Touch the animal
• Easy to Read in Fun, Bold Block Letters.
• Bright and Colorful Visual
• Easy for child to use
• Professionally recorded audio for clear pronunciation.
• Tested by Parents and their kids for ease of use. Design to be used by the kids alone or with parents in an interactive session.

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Addition UnderSea Adventures Games HD Free Lite

Link: http://itunes.apple.com/app/id385351305

Learning Addition Visually - Answer questions to reveal a secret picture. Every correct answer is one step closer to seeing the picture.

Game Objective:
The object of the game is to unlock all levels and reach the final level. The levels are unlocked when the puzzles are solved, and as the levels progress, the puzzles are more challenging and less time is given to complete the level.

How to Play:
Drag the wooden game pieces to the correct grid guide. As the game is played, each correct answer reveals small parts of a hidden secret picture. Once solved, the whole secret picture is revealed. Every level has a different secret picture to discover.

Settings:
• Sound Effects: Turn ON or OFF sound.
• Advanced Mode: When ON, increases the difficulty of the puzzles. Suitable for older kids that needs to be challenged.
• Game Timed: When OFF, no time limits during game play. When ON, time limit is applied, ever decrease as the levels get higher. Recommended to turn it OFF for beginners so that the added pressure will not make learning intimidating. Suitable for ages 3 and older.

FlashToPass Free Math Flash Cards (Free)

Link: http://itunes.apple.com/app/id330482882

FlashToPass Lite is an easy-to-use, elegant program designed to facilitate mastering the basic math facts learned in Elementary School.

• Features:
  • All of the same features as the paid version - for free!
  • Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division, and Mixed sets.
  • Six levels of difficulty per mathematical operational.
  • 24 additional card sets for practicing particular math fact sets, such as “two’s” in addition, ranging from 1 to 24.
  • Randomly generated card sets.
  • Captivating sound effects and animations!

Alphabet Tracing (Free)

Link: http://itunes.apple.com/app/id374493089

Fun train, truck and worm animations come to life for children to follow, while showing the proper way to write alphabet letters and numbers.

How to Play:
Trace with your finger, try the color palette and textures. Use as a doodle pad.

iKids Flash cards Lite (Free)

Link: http://itunes.apple.com/app/id405824454

Kids Flash Cards lite - An effective Learn to Read program designed for kids to use with little supervision.

Features:
• The program have progressive lessons with six categories including animals, food, kinship, vehicle, color, and numbers.
• Each picture was designed by well-known cartoonists.
• The images are presented with Magic effects hidden in the screen for kids to explore.

Ease of Use:
• The program is easy to use by children as young as 2–7 years old.
• An animated reading narrator will guide students through exercises, so children can use the program with little supervision.

iPod, iPhone, & iPod Touch Apps
iPad, iPhone, & iPod Touch Apps

**ABC Alphabet Phonics (Free)**


This FREE app makes it fun and easy to go over the alphabet phonetics, spelling, reading, and sounds.

- Includes beautiful illustrations of each letter.
- Includes recorded audio for each letter to your little one learns how to sound out the name (ABC phonics)
- Includes one example such as “as is for apple” for each letter along with a beautiful illustration
- Includes over 5 unique flashcard play modes including: * Words only * Images only * Flashcards only
- Words then images * Words then Flashcards

**History: Maps of the World (Free)**


“History: Maps of World” is a fun and educational collection of high-resolution historical maps. Check it out to keep up with your history, or to learn something new about history that you never knew before!

**Features**

- Wide variety of historical displays
- Support for Category/Era view
- Keyword Search
- Displays the source about each map
- Zoom in/out (zoom-in/out with pinch, zoom-in with double tap, and zoom-out with two-fingers tap)
- Free screen rotation
- Not require a network connection
- Plans to add more features and maps.

**ABC Phonics Sight Words HD Free Lite - for iPad**


Learn Dolch Sight Words The Fun And Easy Way

FOUR GAMES IN ONE - All Bundled Together

1. FLASHCARDS - SEE the spelling, HEAR the audio, and LEARN the word.
2. DRAG & SPELL - HEAR the audio, then SPELL the word. Teaches fine motor skills to drag the letter into the right spot to teach spelling of the words.
3. UNSCRAMBLE - Test reinforced learning to see if your child comprehend the lessons from the top two games. Unscramble the word without any audio cues.
4. PRIZE AWARD - Encourages and rewards your child and makes learning fun. After completing each level in the Unscramble, your kids can go to the Prizeland to play and with the prizes. The more levels they complete, the more prizes they will unlock.

Learning over 300 Dolch Sight Words or “High Frequency” Words will help your child learn to read better, and in most schools, it is a requirement for the kids to know these without sounding them out.

The POWER in this learning tool is the ability to change the setting to fit your child’s learning level and style and design to grow with your child. Use this to design your own custom learning lesson plans.
Dragon Dictation App (Free)


Dragon Dictation is an easy-to-use voice recognition application powered by Dragon NaturallySpeaking that allows you to easily speak and instantly see your text or email messages. In fact, it's up to five (5) times faster than typing on the keyboard.

With Dragon Dictation you can also dictate status updates directly to your Social Networking applications (Facebook and Twitter) or send notes and reminders to yourself....all using your voice. So when you're on-the-go, stop typing and start speaking – from short text messages to longer email messages, and anything in between.

Dragon Dictation currently supports U.S. English, U.K. English, Australian English, French, German, Italian and Spanish.

The application is supported on iPad, iPhone - 2G, 3G, 3Gs, 4 and iPod touch - 2nd, 3rd and 4th generation models. To use the Dragon Dictation application, you need at least OS 3.1 and iTunes 9. However, OS 4.0 is required for users that want to paste dictated text directly into the iPhone SMS client.

Your transcribed texts as well as the result list are sent over the Internet. You need either a WiFi or iPhone™ data connection. Make sure you have internet connectivity before trying to use the application on your iPad or iPod touch.

Composing Messages: Launch the Dragon Dictation application. Tap the red recording button in the middle of the screen to initiate the voice recognition process. While the application is recording, speak your message. Tap the “Done” button (for the iPhone and iPod touch users) or anywhere on the screen (for iPad users) when you finish speaking. You can also set auto end-of-speech setting to ON to detect end of speech. You can tap the red recording button again to dictate additional text. Dragon Dictation on iPhone will also auto-save dictated text on the scratchpad, which can be accessed after accepting an incoming call.

Correcting Text: To edit transcribed text, tap the word you would like to correct. When you touch the word you will see a drop-down list of alternative suggestions. To correct a phrase drag your finger to adjacent words until the entire phrase is highlighted. If you prefer, you can record a new phrase by pressing the red record icon while the original phrase is highlighted. The phrase will be replaced with the new phrase you speak.

Typing Text: In addition to composing messages by voice, Dragon Dictation provides the ability for users to either enter new text or edit text they have dictated by tapping the keyboard icon.

iPad™ users: Dragon Dictation Notes is a new feature that lets users easily view and manage texts for multiple documents. Dragon Dictation can be used in the landscape or portrait mode on the iPad. When using in the portrait mode, the Notes are minimized in the top left corner, and can be expanded by tapping on it. There is an “i” info icon on the application, by tapping it you can get some basic information on using Dragon Dictation on the iPad, and a list of commonly used commands and punctuations.

Sending Dictated text to Notes: Your dictated text is automatically saved in Dragon Dictation Notes where you can review and edit any Note by clicking on it. In order to create a new Note click on the “+” symbol on the top right.

Email: Launches your email client and inserts your composed text into a new email message. This Note will be deleted from Dragon Dictation Notes.

Copy: Copies your Note to the iPad™ clipboard and will still remain in Dragon Dictation Notes.

Cut: Cuts your Note to the iPad™ clipboard and will delete it from Dragon Dictation Notes.

Facebook: Launches Facebook and inserts your composed text into the Facebook status bar.

Twitter: Launches Twitter and inserts your composed text into the Twitter status bar.

I can think of many educational uses for a product like this.

Speak! It types for you!
NASA LEARN and NES Offering Webinars in January

NASA LEARN, or Learning Environments and Research Network, and NASA Explorer Schools have teamed up to offer exciting webinars featuring NASA educational resources for educators. Below are three offerings in January 2011. The webinars are presented from 9-10 p.m. EST, so we can make sure educators on both the East Coast and West Coast can participate. And don’t worry about the technology. We have tech support ready to walk you through viewing and participating in the webinars.

You can register for each of the webinars by clicking on these website links:

**Exploring Space Through Math**  
Jan. 5, 2011, 9 p.m. EST  
Learn how to get your students to investigate the characteristics of quadratic functions to solve real-world problems involving the parabolic flights of NASA’s “Weightless Wonder” microgravity jet.  
https://digitalmedia.wufoo.com/forms/nes-webinar-registration-exp-space-through-math/

**GENESIS: What Are We Made of? The Sun, Earth and You**  
Jan. 12, 2011, 9 p.m. EST  
By counting elements extracted from a simulated Genesis sample, students learn how the extraction of atoms from the Genesis samples help scientists have a better understanding of the abundance of elements from the solar wind.  
https://digitalmedia.wufoo.com/forms/nes-webinar-registration-genesis/

**Rockets and Your Classroom**  
Jan. 26, 2011, 9 p.m. EST  
Review the Rocketry activity, explore the NASA connections, share tips and tricks for implementing this lesson in the classroom, watch videos of students engaged in the lesson, and discuss possible modifications or extensions.  
https://digitalmedia.wufoo.com/forms/nes-webinar-registration-nasa-rockets-guide/

**2011 NASA Lunabotics Mining Competition**

NASA is challenging U.S. and international undergraduate and graduate student teams to design and build a remote-controlled or autonomous excavator that could be used on the moon. The excavator must be able to collect and deposit a minimum of 10 kilograms (22 pounds) of lunar simulant in 15 minutes.

Design teams must include one faculty advisor from a college or university and two or more undergraduate or graduate students. A group of universities may work in collaboration, and multidisciplinary teams are encouraged.

Selected teams will compete in the Lunabotics Mining Competition at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida on May 23-28, 2011.

Teams must apply no later than Feb. 28, 2011. There will be a limited number of teams allowed to compete. For more information about the competition and to apply online, visit [http://www.nasa.gov/lunabotics](http://www.nasa.gov/lunabotics). Please e-mail any questions about this opportunity to Susan Sawyer at Susan.G.Sawyer@nasa.gov.

**New Educational Materials Available**

The Educational Materials section of NASA’s Web site offers classroom activities, educator guides, posters and other types of resources that are available for use in the classroom. Materials are listed by type, grade level and subject. The following items are now available for downloading.

**Women in STEM High School Aerospace Scholars Flier -- Grades 9-11**  
WISH wants female high school juniors to participate in a pilot project. Beginning with an online collaboration in fall 2010, selected applicants will compete to participate in a summer 2011 workshop at NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston. There they will work alongside female NASA engineers and interns and collaborate in hands-on activities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The WISH Flier explains how to apply.  

**Human Exploration Project Series -- Grades K-12**  
This series of curricular units focus on themes that NASA engineers and scientists -- as well as future generations of explorers -- must consider when planning future human explorations into space. This includes such themes as Energy and Power, Transportation and Lunar Plant Growth Chambers (the STS-118 Design Challenges).  
2011 Space Tech Engineering Design Challenge

NASA has invited college students to take part in the 2011 Space Tech Engineering Design Challenge. Students are invited to design a technology that will help further space exploration and development. Designs may relate to autonomous operations; entry, descent and landing; human factors; power/propulsion including for operation in space and on other planetary bodies; or robotics (not related to in-situ lunar samples). Students entering other NASA contests, such as Lunabotics or RASC-ALs, may not submit the same entry or technology that they used for the other contests. All entries must be original and must be the work of students, not faculty or corporate partners.

The contest is open to any full-time student enrolled in an accredited post-secondary institution in the United States. This category includes universities, colleges, trade schools, community colleges, professional schools, etc. Interdisciplinary teams are encouraged.

A notice of intent is requested as soon as possible. Final entries are due June 1, 2011.

For more information and a complete list of rules, visit http://spacetech.larc.nasa.gov.

Questions about the challenge should be directed to Elizabeth Ward at Elizabeth.B.Ward@nasa.gov.

2010-2011 NASA Future of Flight Art Contest

NASA’s Future of Flight Art Contest invites students to imagine what spaceships, rockets or aircraft will look like 100 years from now. High school and college students from all areas of study are encouraged to enter. Artists are encouraged to collaborate with science and engineering students. Any full-time student can enter, regardless of major or area of study. Team entries are accepted, but team size is limited to eight students.

Entries will be accepted in the following categories: two-dimensional art, three-dimensional art, digital (including music and video) and literature (poetry and short stories). Entries will be evaluated on creativity and artistic qualities. Prizes include awards and exhibit opportunities. Entries are due April 15, 2011.

UCET 2011 PreRegistration Deadline Friday, February 11, 2011

We hope you join us for UCET 2011. This year we have two keynote speakers, something we’ve not done before. Many sessions to choose from as well. We’re in the process of putting together the program, and will have it online for you soon.

Please register online before the deadline, Friday, February 11, and save yourself ten dollars. Registration price is $45.00 for Friday and Saturday, or $25.00 for one day only. Preregistration deadline is Friday, February 11, 2011. After the deadline, the cost increases $10.00.

Kevin Honeycutt, Technology Integration Trainer
UCET 2011 Keynote Speaker

Kevin Honeycutt grew up in poverty and moved around the country, staying a step ahead of the ramifications of his father’s behavior. As he witnessed education around the country he collected powerful experiences that still influence his conversations and his work with educators. He spent 13 years teaching art K-12 and for the past three years Kevin has hosted a creative learning site called ArtSnacks (http://artsnacks.org) where he shares 130+ ten minute drawing videos that support standards curriculum. This social “learning” network is his Petri-dish for learning to mentor teachers and students in virtual environments and to help kids learn “netiquette”. (continued on next page)

Jaime Casap
Google Education Evangelist

UCET 2011 Keynote Speaker

Jaime Casap is an Education Evangelist at Google, inc., a provider of search technology based in Mountain View, CA. In his role on the Google Apps for Education Team, Jaime is responsible for evangelizing Google Apps to education institutions, especially in the K12 space. He is responsible for signing state level agreements with Oregon, Iowa, Colorado, and New York, bringing cloud based technology tools to millions of students and teachers in K12. He is also working with a number of Education Reform Organizations, bringing the technology perspective to improving education in the U.S. (continued on next page)
Kevin Honeycutt (continued from page 1)...

Kevin is currently serving his eighth year as a Technology Integration Specialist at ESSDACK, an educational service center based in Hutchinson, Kansas. At ESSDACK he researches and develops programs with a strong passion to make teachers and learners comfortable with technology. He is a school board member in the town of Inman, Kansas. Currently in his second term, he feels that one of his most important roles is to help vision what the future holds for learners and to help move his district in right, new directions. During his classroom tenure, he developed project-based approaches to learning that infused technology and problem solving skills. He created a film program for kids and developed it into a fully functioning curriculum at the high school level.

He has developed; online safety, anti-bullying and cyber-bullying curriculum which he shares with parents, teachers and students around the country and also certifies instructors in his curriculum. He continues to work with schools to develop innovative, engaging curriculum to better prepare learners for the world they will face when they graduate. Kevin is passionate about meeting the needs of at-risk learners and works with kids in juvenile detention, developing approaches to re-engage the "lost" learner. He travels the country speaking at conferences and working with educators at the grassroots level and likes to promote a "tradigital" approach to education.

He like to bring his personal life experience and a sense of humor to the mission of helping prepare 21st century learners!

Jaime Casap (continued from page 1)...

Before working with K12 institutions, Jaime worked with universities and colleges, including all the universities in Arizona, University of Minnesota, Montana State University, and many more, bringing Google Apps for Education to the higher education space.

Previously, Jaime was part of Charles Schwab’s Talent Management and Development Team and worked directly under their CIO. Before joining Charles Schwab, Jaime was an Experienced Manager at Accenture for six years, where he consulted on organizational strategy and human performance in the Electronics and High Tech Industry. Jaime also served a role on Governor Cuomo’s Welfare Reform Task Force. Jaime holds a Bachelor’s Degree from the State University of New York at Brockport and a Master’s in Public Policy from Arizona State University.

In addition to his role at Google, from time to time, Jaime is a Faculty Associate at Arizona State University’s School of Public Programs, where he teaches classes in Organizational Behavior, Leadership, and Innovation.

Jaime serves on the Advisory Board of Directors for New Global Citizens, a non-profit that educates, equips and mobilizes young people to help solve the greatest challenges faced by communities around the world. Jaime also serves on the Arizona STEM Education Program Advisory Board and is a member of the Digital Education Council, an organization led by Jeb Bush and Bob Wise to improve digital education in the United States.

Conference Schedule for Friday, March 4, 2011

7:45  Registration and Breakfast
9:00  Conference Opens - Awards Presented
9:30  Keynote Address - Kevin Honeycutt
10:45  Session 1 - Exhibition Hall opens - Lunch 1
11:45  Break
12:00  Session 2 - Lunch 2
1:00  Break
1:15  Session 3
2:15  Break
2:30  Session 4
3:30  Cookies and Beverage Break
4:00  Keynote Address - Jaime Casap
5:00  Conference adjourns until Saturday Morning

Conference Schedule for Saturday, March 5, 2011

7:30  Breakfast
8:00  Session 5 and Workshop Sessions
9:00  Break
9:15  Session 6
10:15  Break
10:30  Session 7
11:30  Break
11:45  Closing remarks and prize drawings
12:30  Conference ends
Grants, Contests, Opportunities

NEC $25,000 Classroom Give-away


“NEC wants to see how badly your school classroom needs a technology upgrade! Just fill out the registration form and submit a video of your classroom in need! NEC will choose 5 classrooms, and then the voting is up to you! Public voting will begin in March 2011 at [http://www.necdisplay.com](http://www.necdisplay.com)

The winner will be announced April 4, 2011. And if you win, you get a choice of $25,000 in NEC products to outfit your school.

Plus the 2nd - 5th place winners will win a E321, 32” NEC LCD for your school!!

Submit your video between November 1, 2010 through February 28, 2011!

Toyota Tapestry Grants for Science Teachers ($500K)

Link: [http://tapestry.nsta.org/](http://tapestry.nsta.org/)

From their website: “Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. and the National Science Teachers Association are pleased to announce the 21st Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Science Teachers program. This year, 50 large grants of $10,000 each will be awarded to K-12 teachers of science in the United States. Grants will be awarded in Environmental Science.

Toyota TAPESTRY recognizes outstanding educators who are making a difference by demonstrating excellence and creativity in science teaching. Since 1991 the program has awarded more than $9.2 million to 1,147 teams of teachers for innovative science classroom projects. Thanks to these teachers’ tireless efforts to improve their skills and increase their effectiveness, students nationwide are gaining a better understanding of science principles and methodologies. Toyota and NSTA sincerely hope these grants continue to inspire teachers and serve as a catalyst for lifetime science learning.

A partnership between Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. and the National Science Teachers Association, the Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Science Teachers program offers grants to K–12 science teachers for innovative projects that enhance science education in the school and/or school district. 50 large grants totaling $500,000 in all, will be awarded this year. To apply for funding, qualified teachers must write a Toyota TAPESTRY proposal according to the proposal requirements. The deadline for the completion of the online application is 11:59 P.M. EST Tuesday, February 23, 2011. Recipients of Toyota TAPESTRY grants will be notified in April 2011. Non-recipients will be notified in June 2010.

The online application is available to begin [HERE](http://www.nsta.org) or click “Grant Registration” in the top menu. If you are already registered, login to your grant application [HERE](http://www.nsta.org) or click “Grant Login” in the top menu. The project director is asked to begin the application process by creating a login and password. You are not required to complete the application process in one session; the proposal is saved as you submit each section. There are examples of components as you begin each section. For questions or assistance with the application process, please contact tapestry@nsta.org.”

H&R Block Dollars & Sense Grant

Link: [http://www.hrblockdollarsandsense.com/](http://www.hrblockdollarsandsense.com/)

From their website: “We’re awarding half a million dollars in curriculum grants to schools nationwide.

A recent study revealed 50% of high school students receive a grade of “F” when tested on personal financial knowledge. This is not surprising given that more than half of the U.S. does not require any type of personal finance education in high schools.

H&R Block Dollars & Sense is committed to helping teens learn the skills they need by donating half a million dollars in personal finance curriculum to high schools free of charge.

Now through Feb. 28, high school educators apply for the curriculum grant for their schools. From March 1 through April 15 everyone can vote to determine which schools receive the grants.”
You can get the technologies you need in your classroom, you just may have to do some hunting...

Grants for middle and high school math teachers

Toshiba America Foundation (TAF) grants

Link: http://www.toshiba.com/taf/612.jsp

Wanted: Classroom Innovators! Toshiba America Foundation is currently accepting applications from teachers who are passionate about making science and mathematics more engaging for their students.

Do you teach 6-12 science or math? Do you have a wish list of instructional equipment that will make learning more exciting for your students? If the answer is yes to these questions, Toshiba America Foundation would like to hear from you.

Grade 6-12 applications for $5,000 or less are accepted on a rolling basis, throughout the calendar year. Grants requests of more than $5,000 are reviewed twice a year. Applications for grants of more than $5,000 are due August 1st and February 1st each year.

Toshiba America Foundation K-5 Grants

Link: http://www.toshiba.com/taf/k5.jsp

- Do you teach in an elementary school classroom?
- Do you have an idea for improving math or science instruction in your classroom?
- What do you need to make learning math and science fun for your students?
- What instructional items or project materials are on your wish list?

K-5 grade teachers are invited to use Toshiba America Foundation’s short application form to describe a set of lessons or a hands-on project they would like to introduce in their own classrooms.

With the Toshiba America Foundation grant, elementary teachers bring their best new teaching ideas to life. Grant applications are due on October 1st each year.

Grant Writing Tips

Source: http://lone-eagles.com/granthelp.htm

“Writing grant proposals to get money to make your project happen is becoming more and more common. Here are tips and resources for writing your first grant!

1. Find out which foundations have given grants in your region similar to your planned proposal! Talk to those who got funded and ask for advice and ideally copies of their successful grants.

2. Read the current guidelines for those foundations on what they will fund and when the grants are due. If a foundation says they won’t fund equipment, don’t ask them for equipment (unless it’s a necessary component of the part of the grant they said they’d fund!) For example: A programmatic grant could ask for $50,000 in support equipment, but would not be considered if they called themselves a technology project. Semantics do matter a great deal!

If they say they’ll fund up to $15,000, don’t ask them for $50,000. Foundations often shift their focus, and timing can be very important. Watch for timing-sensitive opportunities. Do your homework! Grant reviewers appreciate those who paid attention to their RFP’s (Requests for Proposals.) Too few do!

3. Collect sample successful grants to use as boilerplate models. Many foundations will send you, on request, proposals from past funded projects, or at least will give you the addresses of past grant recipients, so you can ask them directly for copies of successful proposals. The more good proposals you read, the more you’ll understand how clear writing and following guidelines leads to funding.

4. Use the same terms in your proposal that the foundation used to describe what they want to fund. Buzz phrases push important buttons. If they tell you what to tell them: listen, and be convincing as to how your project dovetails with their posted guidelines. If an RFP says they don’t fund technology grants, don’t use the word technology. Find other words to express your project, ideally taken directly from the RFP guidelines.

5. Get to know individuals who have worked with the foundations to which you’re applying. Talk to foundation personnel as much as is politely possible. Typically, little suggestions, and hints, you’ll pick up, even from a phone conversation, will make major differences in the final form and focus of your proposal. The more personal contacts you make, the better for you. Foundations appreciate those who take the time to gather all the facts, and they might even recognize your name when your proposal comes up for review. Pay careful attention on what to emphasize and what to tone down. (Continued on the next page)
Grant Writing Tips (continued)

6. Less is More! Reviewing stacks of proposals is a difficult job. Grant reviewers quickly learn to scan text, particularly proposal abstracts, in an attempt to get a quick overview of exactly what you expect to do, with whom, when, how, and toward what measurable outcome. If you are short and to the point, and you’ve answered the key questions, your grant will be viewed as comprehensible and fundable. If you bog down the reviewer with too much ambling detail they’ll have a hard time understanding your proposal and it is likely to end up in the “NO” pile. Good proposals are easy to understand.

7. A catchy name, like “Reach for the Sky” which is also descriptive of the project, can make a big difference. First impressions and a memorable theme and name are important! Remember they will want to promote your project proudly as one of their great projects.

8. Good writing should be easy to read, understand, and should present your ideas in an exciting, yet specific manner. The abstract of your proposal is the single most important paragraph of your proposal. You should know exactly what you’re planning to do with their money, and express it in elegant simplicity. If the grant reviewer has a good idea of the direction of your proposal from reading the abstract, it creates an important first impression that you do indeed know what you want accomplish, with whom, at what cost, and specifically how.

In reading an exciting, well-written proposal, one idea follows naturally to the next. One disjointed or boring sentence can kill the mounting enthusiasm of a tired grant reader. Maintain a tempo of easy to understand sentences that build on one another in a crescendo fashion.

9. Show in your proposal that you’re aware of who has done similar projects, and that you’ve partnered with appropriate entities to assure your project will have enough support to make it through to completion. Big Sky Telegraph, BST, (my former 10-year project) has helped many people get grants because it was widely known we’d been around long enough that funders assume we won’t disappear overnight. Affiliating with BST gave the impression that the grantees will have technical telecommunications support to assure their grant’s success.

10. Sustainability is a big issue. Too many grant projects disappear after the funding is gone. How can you assure ongoing benefits once the funding runs out is one of the biggest questions in the mind of the grant reviewer.

11. Measurable outcomes. Once the grant is over, exactly what was produced, how will it be disseminated and exactly how many people will have benefited? How do you intend to measure tangible outcomes to prove the projected benefit actually occurred?

12. In the passion of writing a grant it is easy to get too ambitious. A major red flag for grant reviewers is the indication you’ve planned to accomplish more than your budget makes realistically attainable. It is better to limit your proposal to less, more assuredly attainable goals, than to promise more than you can deliver. Most projects find they badly underestimated funding for staff and particularly technology support. Be realistic and conservative.

13. Tie yourself to a major regional, or national, issue and position your proposal as a model to be replicated once you’ve proved your idea works. Make it clear you’re not just benefiting ten people in Two-Dot, Montana, but that you’re solving a problem shared by all rural schools and are creating a replicable national model. A specific strategy for broadly sharing your solution should be specifically part of your proposal plan.

14. Choose your partners wisely. The more partners you have to deal with, the harder it is to keep everyone happy, particularly where control of large sums of money is the issue. If you plan to be working with your grant partners for years, you’d better be sure you know who you can trust and work with. Many projects end up with internal in-fighting that takes the fun out of getting funded. Money changes friendships. Tread cautiously. (Continued on the next page)
I have been working with technology in education for nearly thirty years now. I’ve seen a lot of things come and go. I know this really dates me, but I remember when we saved our programs on punch cards. As I’ve worked closely with technology, I’ve learned a few important lessons.

**Technology is only a tool** - one tool of the many that are used in the art of teaching. I think that sometimes we let the tool get in the way of educational success - like trying to use a hammer to do a screwdriver’s job. Use the right tool for the job. Sometimes a pencil is a good technology, too.

**Technology is a funding black hole**: Equipment ages quickly. In my labs I replace all the equipment every three to four years. Most software you purchase will have a yearly cost to upgrade and maintain. You need to carefully evaluate, “Is this tool really worth the funding it will take to implement and maintain it?” If you’re writing a grant to get equipment, the grant will probably not replace or maintain that equipment. That either makes obtaining it a one-time-shot - a window of time that you can use it, or you must make arrangements for ongoing training, maintenance, and replacement costs. You purchase technology because the tool will enable you to do something easier, better, more efficiently, obtain better results, etc. You don’t want to start off with a bang, and then go stagnant because of lack of continued funding.

**People value personal interactions**. How many times have you cursed a phone answering system that began, “Please listen carefully to the following options...”? When we call, we usually want a human interaction, not a technology one. It’s important to remember this in the art of educating. How will a technology assist you to have more relevant, meaningful interactions with your students? Can a technology take over some of the more mundane educational tasks, so that it frees time to personally interact with your students?

**Don’t just hop on the technology bandwagon** just because everyone else is doing it. You need to be able to truly justify why you should include any technology into your education plans. **Some questions to ask:***

1. **Exactly how will this technology help me do my job better?**...help students do their job better?
2. **What benefits will come from investing in this technology?** What are the drawbacks or disadvantages? How will this purchase free you or enslave you? How will it empower or debilitate you?
3. **What kind of support will be in place when something goes wrong?** How will people be trained for using this new technology? How will this be maintained (or replaced when it becomes outdated)?
4. **What are the hidden costs?** Will there be new furniture required? Do you have sufficient electrical capacity (security, internet access, space, peripherals, etc.)? You need to carefully evaluate every aspect of the purchase, such as warranty, manufacturer reliability, performance record, etc. What is the total cost of ownership really going to be?
5. **Is everyone that will be using this new purchase willing to personally buy in to it?** By this I mean, willing to invest the time necessary to learn it, use it, and come at it with an open mind. Many technology purchases fail because the users couldn’t come to grips with using it - wouldn’t keep an open mind about it - weren’t willing to give it a chance to work. Essentially, it was doomed before it even started. Often, decisions made at an administrative level without buy-in on all levels are perceived as added burdens rather than beneficial gifts.

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**Fundnet Services Online**

Link: [http://www.fundnetservices.com/](http://www.fundnetservices.com/)

Fundnet Fundraising & Grants Directory is provided at no cost to our visitors. Since 1996 Fundnet Services has provided Grantwriting & Fundraising resource information to those in need of funding for their programs & initiatives.
Learning with Real Meaning...

**Learning Through Helping Others**

There is a lot of buzz lately about Project-based Learning. Or some call it Challenge-based Learning or Service-based Learning. It’s all basically the same.

In some ways, our education system is still in an 18th century, industrial, assembly-line mode. We herd children together by age, and send them down the assembly line from Kindergarten through college, making sure each core standard and objective gets attached in the right place along the way. And in doing so, we pull them out of the real world, and place them in an arbitrary, artificial learning environment, where learning often has no relevance to real life at all.

I think most educators feel this dichotomy - at least on a gut level. But we also feel our system is too big, too massive, has too much inertia to change directions. We’re too small to make a difference. Service-based learning is an attempt to move from artificial learning environments back to real life. We can be movers and changers!

According to the National Service Learning Clearinghouse, “Service-Learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. Through service-learning, young people—from kindergarteners to college students—use what they learn in the classroom to solve real-life problems. They not only learn the practical applications of their studies, they become actively contributing citizens and community members through the service they perform.

Service-learning can be applied in a wide variety of settings, including schools, universities, and community-based and faith-based organizations. It can involve a group of students, a classroom or an entire school. Students build character and become active participants as they work with others in their school and community to create service projects in areas such as education, public safety, and the environment.

Community members, students, and educators everywhere are discovering that service-learning offers all its participants a chance to take part in the active education of youth while simultaneously addressing the concerns, needs, and hopes of communities.

What Service-Learning Looks Like

If school students collect trash out of an urban streambed, they are providing a valued service to the community as volunteers. If school students collect trash from an urban streambed, analyze their findings to determine the possible sources of pollution, and share the results with residents of the neighborhood, they are engaging in service-learning.

In the service-learning example, in addition to providing an important service to the community, students are learning about water quality and laboratory analysis, developing an understanding of pollution issues, and practicing communications skills. They may also reflect on their personal and career interests in science, the environment, public policy or other related areas. Both the students and the community have been involved in a transformative experience.” (Source)

I wish to share with you some resources about this type of learning, and hope that you would take time to look through them carefully.

**How To Bring Service Learning to Your School**

Link: [http://www.edutopia.org/blog/service-learning-how-to](http://www.edutopia.org/blog/service-learning-how-to)

**Rural Students Reap Academic Gains from Community Service**

Link: [http://www.edutopia.org/service-learning-fowler](http://www.edutopia.org/service-learning-fowler)

**Edutopia Project Based Learning**

Link: [http://www.edutopia.org/project-based-learning](http://www.edutopia.org/project-based-learning)

**Learn and Serve America**


“America’s young people – from kindergartners to college students – have the desire, energy and ability to make a real difference in their communities. Service-learning offers a unique opportunity for them to get involved in a tangible way by integrating community service projects with classroom learning. Service-learning engages students in the educational process, using what they learn in the classroom to solve real-life problems. Students not only learn about democracy and citizenship, they become actively contributing citizens and community members through the service they perform.

Learn and Serve America supports and encourages service-learning throughout the United States, and enables over one million students to make meaningful contributions to their community while building their academic and civic skills. By engaging our nation’s young people in service-learning, Learn and Serve America instills an ethic of lifelong community service.”

**Explore service learning opportunities with your classroom!**

**National Service-Learning Clearinghouse**


**Learn and Serve America**


“America’s young people – from kindergartners to college students – have the desire, energy and ability to make a real difference in their communities. Service-learning offers a unique opportunity for them to get involved in a tangible way by integrating community service projects with classroom learning. Service-learning engages students in the educational process, using what they learn in the classroom to solve real-life problems. Students not only learn about democracy and citizenship, they become actively contributing citizens and community members through the service they perform.

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**Explore service learning opportunities with your classroom!**

**National Service-Learning Clearinghouse**

Recently, Apple Computer sponsored a webinar on Challenge Based Learning. In it, they discussed the basic ideas behind Challenge Based Learning - “Challenge Based Learning is an engaging multidisciplinary approach to teaching and learning that encourages students to leverage the technology they use in their daily lives to solve real-world problems.” They discussed the strategies they’ve developed to implement challenge based learning into the classroom teaching environment. They shared a pdf document, “Challenge Based Learning - A Classroom Guide” with each participant. I asked Michelle Smith, Apple Inc - Inside Account Executive, if I could share this with teachers. She checked with Apple Corporate, and they gave me permission to share this document with you, as well as the website (above and illustrated at right).

Download PDF: Challenge Based Learning-A Classroom Guide

The site contains a wealth of information about Challenge Based Learning - be sure to look through each section: Key Components, Process, Challenges, CBL Pilot, Resources, and Participate. Each section contains videos, resource links, and information that will help you get started with this type of learning in your own classroom, as well as help you connect to others who are trying to do the same.

I think as you research these materials and resources, you’ll find ideas and methodology that will excite and energize you as a teacher. I think your students will respond the same way.

Challenge Based Learning - An Approach for Our Time


A research report published by The New Media Consortium, this document provides another resource for teachers wanting to implement Challenge Based Learning in their classrooms. It asks the questions, “What if we focused our energy not on test scores and rankings but on engaging students in their work? What if their work was more than facts and formulas as presented in books, but relevant to the world they see? What if rather than trying to teach them problem solving, we actually encouraged them to take on problems that needed solving? Rather than teaching them a science curriculum, what if we opened the door for them to do science?”

Additional Resources and Information...

Challenge Based Learning: A Slideshow presentation by Jennifer Dorman from Discovery.com

Challenge-based learning: José García’s innovative approach to student inquiry

TeacherTube Video: Challenge Based Learning in the Elementary Classroom

YouTube Video: What is Service Learning?

You’ll find several dozen other videos on service learning at YouTube as well. They are fun to watch, and it will give you ideas on how to implement this type of learning in every age level from elementary school to college and university level.

Research on K-12 School Based Service Learning: The Evidence Builds
Motorola Atrix 4G

“One day, the mobile phone will do double duty as the CPU of a full-fledged laptop. The Motorola Atrix 4G takes a big step down that road. The Atrix would be a powerhouse based on its smartphone chops alone: a dual-core 1GHz processor running Android 2.2, a GB of RAM, front- and rear-facing cameras, and access to AT&T’s future 4G network. But the phone is a game-changer because of its Laptop and HD Multimedia docking systems. As soon as you plug the phone into either dock, a full-fledged Firefox browser launches, your Android apps scale up in size, and you leave thumb-typing behind. The multimedia dock has three USB ports and an HDMI port, so it can power a living room worth of entertainment gear. And the laptop version makes the phone the center of a mobile system with a nearly full-size keyboard and monitor—and the potential to cut pounds from many a road warrior’s gear.” Popular Mechanics

Not to far in the future, our entire computing experience will be mostly from our mobile phones, or similar mobile devices. That’s my prediction.

Effective technology integration is achieved when its use supports curricular goals. It must support four key components of learning:

- active engagement,
- participation in groups,
- frequent interaction and feedback,
- and connection to real-world experts.

George Lucas Educational Foundation

Motorola Xoom Tablet


Winner of the CNET Best of CES 2011, the Motorola Xoom tablet features a dual core processor, uses the Android Honeycomb operating system, front and rear facing cameras, camcorder, uses Adobe Flash player, and a 10.1 inch widescreen HD display.

According to their website, “There are new “smart dock” docking stations that will not only charge your MOTOROLA XOOM, but also let you watch video on your HD TV, listen to music and work — all at the same time. They are even programmable, which means the settings are remembered each time your tablet is docked. It’s an intelligent ecosystem that evolves with you.”

OK, iPad - you’ve got some serious competition. It will be interesting to see what apps are available for this one.
Education Innovation -- Google Science Fair

On Jan. 11, 2011, Google launched the inaugural Google Science Fair. Google has partnered with CERN, National Geographic, Scientific American and the LEGO Group to create this new STEM competition. This is a global competition open to any student aged 13-18, and students may enter as individuals or as teams of up to three. There is no entry fee. Registrations and submissions will be made online. The Science Fair will culminate in a celebratory event at Google headquarters in California in July 2011, where finalists will compete for internships, scholarships and prizes in front of a panel of celebrity scientist judges, including Nobel Laureates and household names.

Submissions are due by April 4, 2011. To sign up for free resource kits for your classroom or school, please visit the Global Science fair website at http://www.google.com/sciencefair

No Boundaries Project and Student Competition (NASA and USA Today Initiative)

Encourage your classes to participate in the No Boundaries National Competition, a joint educational initiative created by NASA and USA TODAY Education. This competition is designed to help students explore careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The effort also offers students the opportunity to learn more about NASA.

The goal of this project is for students to work in small groups to develop a creative project (website, video, podcast, song, etc.) that markets careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics to teens. These student groups then will present their projects to their classmates and a class of younger peers.

The No Boundaries website includes a Teacher Toolkit and step-by-step instructions for teachers to implement the project in the classroom. Background information and links to websites with career information also are provided.

After presenting their projects, groups are encouraged to enter them in the No Boundaries National Competition. All contest entries must be submitted to USA TODAY Education no later than April 1, 2011. Winning teams can win $2,000, passes to a VIP NASA experience and the chance to present their project to NASA.

To learn more about the project and to enter the competition, visit http://www.noboundaries-stemcareers.com

Please e-mail any questions about the No Boundaries Competition to Marcie Peck at mpeck@usatoday.com.

NASA LEARN and NES Offering Webinars

NASA LEARN, or Learning Environments and Research Network, and NASA Explorer Schools have teamed up to offer exciting webinars featuring NASA educational resources for educators. Below are four offerings in February 2011. The webinars are presented from 9-10 p.m. EST to be sure educators on both the East Coast and West Coast can participate. And don’t worry about the technology. We have tech support ready to walk you through viewing and participating in the webinars.

You can register for each of the webinars by clicking on these website links:

Smart Skies -- Feb. 2, 2011, 9 p.m. EST
Learn how to use an innovative air traffic control simulator to engage your students as they explore the mathematics involved in being an air traffic controller.
https://digitalmedia.wufoo.com/forms/nes-webinar-registration-smart-skies/

Black Hole Math -- Feb. 9, 2011, 9 p.m. EST
This session provides teachers with information about one of the most exciting yet misunderstood space phenomenon -- black holes. Learn about black hole structure and behavior, and get information on some common misconceptions about black holes.
https://digitalmedia.wufoo.com/forms/nes-webinar-registration-black-hole-math/

Engineering Design Challenge: Lunar Plant Growth Chamber -- Feb. 16, 2011, 9 p.m. EST
Plant growth will be an important part of space exploration in the future. This webinar will highlight the science of the lunar environment, basic plant needs, the current focus of NASA’s plant research and the systems that are being developed for future missions.
https://digitalmedia.wufoo.com/forms/nes-webinar-registration-plant-growth/

Engineering Design Challenge: Water Filtration -- Feb. 23, 2011, 9 p.m. EST
This webinar will highlight the water recovery and management function of the Environmental Control and Life Support System, or ECLSS, on the International Space Station. Students will design, build, test and measure the performance of a water filtration device, analyze the data collected and use this information to work toward an improved filtration design.
https://digitalmedia.wufoo.com/forms/nes-webinar-registration-water-filtration/

“If we teach today as we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow.”  John Dewey
High Altitude Opportunity for High School Students

Proposals Due Feb 11! Link: http://www.grc.nasa.gov/WWW/balloonsat

High Altitude Flight Student Competition 2011 is now accepting proposals. High School students and their teacher can win $1,000 plus an all expense paid trip to Glenn Research Center where they will launch their experiment on a NASA weather balloon. Please help us get the word out. More information is on the attached flyer. Tim Dedula at william.t.dedula@nasa.gov is the point of contact. Thanks!
ThinkQuest International Competition 2011

Participate in the ThinkQuest International Competition 2011 today!

Dear Educator,

We invite you and your students to take part in the ThinkQuest International Competition.

This exciting competition challenges students to apply their critical thinking, communication, and technology skills to solve a real-world problem. Winning teams receive laptop computers, a cash grant for the coach’s school, and a trip to ThinkQuest Live in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Enroll today to coach a team in the following events for students up to age 19:

- **ThinkQuest Projects event**: Teams present their solution by creating a project in ThinkQuest Projects. Projects can include text, photos, multimedia files, and more.

- **Digital Media event**: Teams present their solution by creating a blog/journal, website, animation, public service announcement, photo essay, video, or some combination of these items. Teams can use any hosting service of their choice.

Visit [www.thinkquest.org/competition](http://www.thinkquest.org/competition) for detailed information, including “how to” videos and step-by-step guides for coaches and students.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,
Oracle Education Foundation

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**Earth Science Week, October 9-15, 2011, Theme Announced**

AGI is pleased to announce the theme of Earth Science Week 2011: “Our Ever-Changing Earth.” Being held October 9-15, 2011, the event will engage young people and the public in learning about the natural processes that shape our planet over time.

Earth Science Week 2011 materials and activities will show how evidence of change can be found everywhere, from the earth beneath our feet to the oceans and atmosphere around us. The fossil record of changes in plant and animal life likewise can be found around the globe. These changes touch our lives in many ways, as we see in headlines about topics such as resource availability, evolution, and climate change.

“Planetary change raises important questions among young people, educators, and the public,” says Ann E. Benbow, Ph.D., AGI’s director of education and outreach. “Earth Science Week 2011 will highlight the important roles that paleontologists, geologists, and other Earth scientists play in building understanding of the complex interactions among the earth systems - atmosphere, hydrosphere, geosphere, and biosphere - over time.”

Earth Science Week offers opportunities to discover the Earth sciences and engage in responsible stewardship of the Earth. The program is supported by the U.S. Geological Survey, the AAPG Foundation, the U.S. Department of Energy, NASA, the National Park Service, Exxon Mobil, ESRI, and other major geoscience groups. To learn more, go to [http://www.earthsciweek.org](http://www.earthsciweek.org). Earth Science Week is more than one week of the year. If you’ve got Internet access, you can teach and learn about Earth science all year long. The Earth Science Week web site offers loads of classroom activities, theme-based resources, research projects, local events and organizations, and careers information. Most importantly, the site features dozens of recommended lessons that teachers and parents can conduct with children. All are aligned with the National Science Education Standards. Check it out at [http://www.earthsciweek.org](http://www.earthsciweek.org) today!
The World Is Our Classroom...

Contact NASA’s DLN

Ames Research Center - Moffett Field, CA
Ames Research Center specializes in research geared towards creating new knowledge and new technologies that span the spectrum of NASA interests.

Dryden Flight Research Center - Edwards, CA
As the lead for flight research, Dryden continues to innovate in aeronautics and space technology. The newest, fastest, the highest -- all have made their debut in the vast, clear desert skies over Dryden.

David Alexander
Phone: 661.276.5818
Email: david.e.alexander@nasa.gov

Glenn Research Center - Cleveland, OH
Glenn Research Center develops and transfers critical technologies that address national priorities through research, technology development, and systems development for safe and reliable aeronautics, aerospace, and space applications.

David Mazza
Phone: 216.433.6190
Email: David.A.Mazza@nasa.gov

Goddard Space Flight Center - Greenbelt, MD
The mission of the Goddard Space Flight Center is to expand knowledge on the Earth and its environment, the solar system, and the universe through observations from space.

Erin McKinley
Phone: 301.286.6664
Email: erin.e.mckinley@nasa.gov

Jet Propulsion Laboratory - Pasadena, CA
The Jet Propulsion Laboratory, managed by the California Institute of Technology is NASA’s lead center for robotic exploration of the Solar System.

Johnson Space Center - Houston, TX
From the early Gemini, Apollo, and Skylab projects to today’s Space Shuttle and International Space Station programs, Johnson Space Center continues to lead NASA’s effort in Human Space Exploration.

JSC DLN Team
Phone: 281.244.7325
Email: jsc-dislearn@mail.nasa.gov

Kennedy Space Center - FL
Kennedy Space Center is America’s Gateway to the Universe -- leading the world in preparing and launching missions around the Earth and beyond.

Damon Talley
Phone: 321.867.4213
Email: Damon.B.Talley@nasa.gov

Langley Research Center - Hampton, VA
Langley continues to forge new frontiers in aviation and space research for aerospace, atmospheric sciences, and technology commercialization to improve the way the world lives.

Karen Ricks
Phone: 757.864.5349
Email: Karen.Ricks@NASA.gov

Marshall Space Flight Center - Huntsville, AL
Bringing people to space; bringing space to people. Marshall Space Flight Center is world leader in the access to space and use of space for research and development to benefit humanity.

Scott Anderson
Phone: 256.544.5881
Email: scott.c.anderson@nasa.gov

Stennis Space Center - MS
Stennis is responsible for NASA’s rocket propulsion testing and for partnering with industry to develop and implement remote sensing technology.

Kelly Witherspoon
Phone: 228.688.3429
Email: t.k.witherspoon@nasa.gov

NASA’s Digital Learning Network
Link: http://www.nasa.gov/offices/education/programs/national/dln/index.html

NASA’s Digital Learning Network™ began in the spring of 2003 with three sites and expanded during the following 3 years to include all 10 NASA field centers. The DLN has reached close to 1 million students and teachers with videoconferences and webcasts that feature NASA-related science, technology, engineering, and mathematics instruction. With standards-based IP videoconference systems and high-speed Internet connectivity, participants can take advantage of free interactive lessons and professional development events through distance learning technologies. The DLN:

* fosters the effective use of interactive instructional technologies through the delivery of NASA educational content for the benefit of its students and educators;

* promotes collaborative activities among its member sites in order to optimize learning experiences for its students and educators;

* encourages open communication among its member sites so that expectations, limitations, strengths, and weaknesses can be objectively addressed for mutual improvement and positive development;

* provides timely responses to internal and external inquiries about technical issues, content development and delivery, and event scheduling;

* encourages innovation and experimentation by its member sites with the expectation that instructional integrity is maintained and NASA educational goals and standards are upheld;

* strives to reach targeted populations associated with NASA distance learning initiatives that target under-served populations while providing access to appropriately equipped members of the general education community;

* participates in the development of an agency-wide infrastructure that makes use of existing and emerging interactive instructional technologies;

* contributes to the professional development of internal and external educators through the delivery of distance learning-based events.
Ask a Scientist
Link: http://www.askascientist.org/

Ask a Historian
Link: http://teachinghistory.org/history-content/ask-a-historian

ePals Global Community
Link: http://www.epals.com/

GlobalSchoolNet.org
http://www.globalschoolnet.org/

Global SchoolNet’s mission is to support 21st century learning and improve academic performance through content driven collaboration. We engage teachers and K-12 students in meaningful project learning exchanges worldwide to develop science, math, literacy and communication skills, foster teamwork, civic responsibility and collaboration, encourage workforce preparedness and create multi-cultural understanding. We prepare youth for full participation as productive and effective citizens in an increasing global economy. Founded in 1984, GSN is a 501(c)3 non-profit education organization. Let’s work together to give youth the skills they need.

This is a free service. From their website: “The ePals Global Community is the world’s largest network of K-12 classrooms, enabling students and teachers to safely connect and collaborate with classrooms in more than 200 countries and territories. Offered at no cost to classrooms, educators can access the community to find collaborative projects, join discussions in the community forums, and search thousands of classroom profiles to engage with others in authentic exchanges - all within a safe, protected online environment.

Within the ePals Global Community visitors will find:

* Email-based collaborative projects with digital content from National Geographic
* Forums for students, teachers and families to participate in discussions with peers worldwide
* Classroom Match which helps educators connect with other classrooms by searching ePals profiles based on project topic, student age range, country, language and more
* School-safe email for monitored communication between students and their ePals

Also, another free service offer by this site is ePals SchoolMail, providing easy-to-use multilingual electronic communications solutions to schools and districts worldwide in a protected, customized, and collaborative environment.
New Educational Materials Available at NASA.gov

The Educational Materials section of NASA’s Web site offers classroom activities, educator guides, posters and other types of resources that are available for use in the classroom. Materials are listed by type, grade level and subject. The following items are now available for downloading.

Women in STEM High School Aerospace Scholars Flier -- Grades 9-11

WISH wants female high school juniors to participate in a pilot project. Beginning with an online collaboration in fall 2010, selected applicants will compete to participate in a summer 2011 workshop at NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston. There they will work alongside female NASA engineers and interns and collaborate in hands-on activities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The WISH Flier explains how to apply.

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/WISH_Flier.html

Human Exploration Project Series -- Grades K-12

This series of curricular units focus on themes that NASA engineers and scientists -- as well as future generations of explorers -- must consider when planning future human explorations into space. This includes such themes as Energy and Power, Transportation and Lunar Plant Growth Chambers (the STS-118 Design Challenges).

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/HEP_Engineering.html

Spelling City has Expanded to Include Vocabulary

Spelling City recently updated their site to include vocabulary, including word definitions, parts of speech, synonyms, and antonyms. However, many of the new vocabulary features are only available to premium members of the site, which costs $49.00 per year. Family premium memberships are $24.99 per year. However, there are additional features for free use as well. Check out the new Vocabulary and Spelling City.com.

V for Vendetta - Kinetic Typography

Link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6Q0dfrbr10

Here’s a fun extension activity. Take a piece of prose and use technology to turn it into a moving piece of kinetic typography. Using type, audio, and visual representations of the text - the piece takes on new, additional meaning and impact. Watch the YouTube video above - you’ll be impressed.

There are many other examples of Kinetic Typography on YouTube, but I particularly enjoyed this one.
Action for Healthy Kids
Link: http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/

“Action for Healthy Kids® is the nation’s leading nonprofit and largest volunteer network fighting childhood obesity and undernourishment by helping schools become healthier places and our kids learn to eat right, be active every day and be ready to learn. A collaboration of more than 70 organizations, corporations and government agencies supports grassroots efforts by 20,000+ volunteers nationwide. In the 2009-10 school year, Action for Healthy Kids reached 4.5 million students in 9,200 schools.”

You’ll want to explore the resources at this site, which include research reports, tools, fact sheets, and newsletters. You’ll find information about programs in each state, such as Utah’s Action for Healthy Kids. Current projects include working with the Utah PTA to promote wellness in the Utah school system and assisting the Utah Department of Health with the development of their new Physical Activity, Nutrition, and Obesity (PANO) Program.

Edutopia - The George Lucas Education Foundation
Link: http://www.edutopia.org

From their website: “The George Lucas Educational Foundation is dedicated to improving the K-12 learning process by documenting, disseminating, and advocating for innovative, replicable strategies that prepare students to thrive in their future education, careers, and adult lives.

... Our vision is of a new world of learning, a place where students and parents, teachers and administrators, policy makers and the people they serve are all empowered to change education for the better; where schools provide rigorous project-based learning, social-emotional learning, and access to new technologies; where innovation is the rule, not the exception; and where students become lifelong learners and develop 21st-century skills, especially in information literacy, so they can do the following:

- Find, assess, and use information effectively and creatively
- Work cooperatively and constructively with others
- Use their strengths and talents to become empowered, productive citizens in our democratic society and the world at large

It’s a place of inspiration and aspiration based on the urgent belief that improving education is the key to the survival of the human race. We call this place Edutopia, and we provide not just the vision for this new world of learning but the real-world information and community connections to make it a reality.

Edutopia is the tangible embodiment of our vision. Through the Edutopia.org Web site, we spread the word about ideal, interactive learning environments and enable others to adapt these successes locally. Edutopia.org contains a deep archive of continually updated best practices, from classroom tips to recommendations for districtwide change. Allied with a dedicated audience that actively contributes success stories from the field, our mission relies on input and participation from schools and communities.

The diverse and innovative media resources available from The George Lucas Educational Foundation are designed to connect and inspire positive change in all areas of education.

- Edutopia.org: An in-depth and interactive resource, Edutopia.org offers practical, hands-on advice, real-world examples, lively contributions from practitioners, and invaluable tips and tools.
- Edutopia video: Through an extensive offering of documentaries, Edutopia video is a catalyst for innovation by helping educators and parents, as well as business and community leaders, see and understand pioneering best practices.”

I’ve mentioned Edutopia before, but I find Edutopia a refreshing, innovative site with great ideas for learning and sharing. I’ve communicated with their members, received timely help and information, and found a community of caring, insightful teachers. If you haven’t explored this site, you need to.
Jared Covili, UCET President Elect

Here are a few things you should know about me. I am from Salt Lake City; I've lived here all my life. In fact, I still live in the home I grew up in (I bought it from my parents - important note: I don't live with my parents!). I am married to a wonderful woman, Tara, and have three amazing kids, Kennedy (age 6), Alex (age 4), and Dylan (age 2). I have worked at the University of Utah for 7 years and love everything about it. Campus is a wonderful place and I'm glad I've had the opportunity to come back - I earned my bachelors and my masters here. I am a huge sports fan and love the Utes, Red Sox, and the Jazz. My hobbies include fantasy sports, blogging, geocaching, camping, and an occasional game of Mario Kart with three little ones.

I got into education because I love to help people learn. There's nothing better than helping someone try to reach an untapped potential. Whether it's a 16-year-old reading a book for the first time, or a college Sophomore realizing they can be a great teacher - I love the spark that good teaching adds to someone's life. My four years in public education were amazing. I loved the students, the other teachers, the activities - it was such a great time in my life. I've been an instructor for the Utah Education Network for 7 years now and am still excited about teaching.

I encountered UCET for the first time in 2003 as part of a college class I was taking for my Masters. Even though I was a bit reluctant to give up my day off to attend a conference, I dragged myself to Cottonwood High. Guess what - I was completely blown away. I learned so many new ideas for technology integration. I was hooked. A few years ago I became a board member and last year I ran for President. I firmly believe in the mission of UCET and I'm proud to say we run the best conference in the state of Utah.

Technology is a wonderful way to help students get excited about learning. Kids are motivated by activities in which they can explore and develop their own ideas; technology is tailor-made for today's students. I can't imagine a classroom where technology doesn't play a vital role in the learning process.

So, that's why I'm a member of UCET and why I am happy to be working on the board with so many great people. We truly believe we're making a difference in the lives of students, teachers, and communities across Utah.

Nathan Smith, UCET Board

Hello, my name is Nathan Smith. I am the UCET Board member who creates your monthly newsletters, and keeps the UCET website. I have enjoyed serving on the Board of Directors for the Utah Coalition for Educational Technology since 2004.

Let's see, a little about me... I taught for twelve years at Santa Clara Elementary School in Santa Clara, Utah. One fond memory of mine is working with the wonderful community of artists to expose children to the various arts, as well as teaching and producing art myself.

I graduated with a Masters degree in Instructional Technology from Utah State University in 1990. I was honored by my department as the Graduate Student of the Year at graduation ceremonies.

In 1992, Utah State University hired me in my current position, which includes Directing the Adele & Dale Young Education Technology Center, a resource center for the College of Education & Human Services that includes a K-12 curriculum materials library, a large student open-access computer lab, and a NASA Educator Resource Center for Utah teachers.

My wife, Phyllis, and I currently reside in Smithfield, Utah. We have seven children. I enjoy playing with technology toys, teaching, reading, music, art, nature, and more. I have an internationally known gallery of computer artwork and photography at nmsmith.deviantart.com.
In This Issue...

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Internet and Curriculum Resources: Google Art Project; PSU’s Electronic Classics Site; Arcademic Skills Builders; Planet eBook; PDFescape; National Academy of Engineering Launches a New Website; ClassicCat - Free Classical Music MP3 Downloads; MusOpen - Set Music Free

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Grants, Contests, Calendar Events: NASA DLN Planetary Webcast Series; Teaching from Space Seeks Educators to Defy Gravity; 2010-11 Green Aviation Student Competitions

Mobile Devices, Apps, and Other Goodies: K9 Web Protection Browser; MathRef; P183 Graphing Calculator; Air Sketch; Essay Grader Mobile; My GeoReader; eClicker; QuintessArt; GoodReader; Idea Sketch; iBrainstorm

STEM Resources & Opportunities from NASA: Utah’s NASA Educator Resource Center for Teachers; Reference Guide to the International Space Station; and much, much more!

Please join us for the annual conference of The Utah Coalition for Educational Technology

UCET 2011
March 4 & 5, 2011
Jordan High School - Sandy, Utah
Register online - www.ucet.org

UCET 2011 is just around the corner! Nearly 200 sessions to choose from! 2 Keynote Speakers! Prize Giveaways! More!
The Backwards Class

I was reading a journal article today that struck a chord with me. A fairly new teacher was teaching a calculus class in the traditional way - lecture in the classroom, then have the students do a homework assignment for practice. Often, she would flinch at the looks of the students faces as they walked out of the classroom. “My students would leave class with that look on their face that you just don’t want to see as a teacher,” she said. She just knew they didn’t understand the material presented that day. So she came up with a novel, very bright idea...

Why not turn the class around? Have students watch the lecture in the evening at home, and do the “homework” while they are in class? So, using PowerPoint and Camtasia, she would create prerecorded lectures to post online. She would hand out lecture notes that the students would take home with them. She asked the students to work through the example problems along with the pre-recorded lecture. If they ran into difficulty or questions, to note the time in the lecture when these occurred. When the students come to class the next day, they go over any questions from the night before. Many students bring their laptop computers, and can go right to the place in the prerecorded lecture where the question occurred.

Students now spend the time in class getting answers to questions, working on additional problems with partners, and getting one-on-one assistance from the teacher. No more lectures in class.

In last month’s UCET newsletter, I commented, “How will a technology assist you to have more relevant, meaningful interactions with your students? Can a technology take over some of the more mundane educational tasks, so that it frees time to personally interact with your students?” I thought, here’s a great example of that.

Kudos to Stacey Roshan, an instructor at Bullis High School in Potomac, Maryland, for a great idea! She says her students are less stressed, get the one-on-one help they’re needing in math, and that grades have improved over last year’s scores. Although prerecording the lectures is time consuming, she feels she has more time available for her students than before. You’ll want to read the entire T.H.E. Journal article.

Translation Tools in the Classroom

I watched a spoof video quite a while back about the Pomegranate Phone, the phone that could do everything - email, internet, phone, built in camera, video, mp3 player, GPS navigation, projection device, voice translator, and more. It was a spoof then - but it’s amazing just how many of those features are actually available to us now! Soon, projectors will be built in to our devices - like the Microvision ShowWX we’ve discussed in previous issues. Google released a free app called Google translate that comes pretty darn close to the Pomegranate video. Using Google’s translation services, the app can translate between 57 languages. However, the impressive part is that for some of the languages such as English and Spanish, you can speak a phrase or sentence. Google uses it’s speech to text services to recognize the text, the put the result on the screen. You can then press the audio button, and the translated text will be spoken in that particular language! This has some great potential - although it’s not as accurate as it could be yet.
Google Art Project

Link: http://www.googleartproject.com/

Google has put together a new resource for education, the Art Project.

You begin by simply selecting a museum from the homepage and then either choose ‘Explore the museum’ or ‘View Artwork’. Once you are in the main site use the drop-down menus or the side info bar to navigate between artworks and museums. Finally create and share your own collections online.

Check out more videos on the Art Project’s YouTube Channel.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the ‘Art Project’? A unique collaboration with some of the world’s most acclaimed art museums to enable people to discover and view more than a thousand artworks online in extraordinary detail.

Explore museums with Street View technology: virtually move around the museum’s galleries, selecting works of art that interest you, navigate through interactive floor plans and learn more about the museum and you explore.

Artwork View: discover featured artworks at high resolution and use the custom viewer to zoom into paintings. Expanding the info panel allows you to read more about an artwork, find more works by that artist and watch related YouTube videos.

Create your own collection: the ‘Create an Artwork Collection’ feature allows you to save specific views of any of the 1000+ artworks and build your own personalised collection. Comments can be added to each painting and the whole collection can then be shared with friends and family.

Why is there a difference between the museums in terms of the number of galleries, artworks and related information? Google approached the museum partners without any curatorial direction, and each museum was able to choose the number of galleries, artwork and information they wanted to include, based on reasons specific to them. All content in the information panel pertaining to individual artworks was also provided by the museums.

Why are some areas or specific paintings in the museum Street View imagery blurred? Some of the paintings and features captured with Street View were required to be blurred by the museums for reasons pertaining to copyrights.

Are the images on the Art Project site copyright protected? Yes. The high resolution imagery of artworks featured on the art project site are owned by the museums, and these images are protected by copyright laws around the world. The Street View imagery is owned by Google. All of the imagery on this site is provided for the sole purpose of enabling you to use and enjoy the benefit of the art project site, in the manner permitted by Google’s Terms of Service. The normal Google Terms of Service apply to your use of the entire site.

Google Art Project partners:

For now the following museums are included in the project:

- Alte Nationalgalerie, Berlin - Germany
- Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian, Washington DC - USA
- The Frick Collection, NYC - USA
- Gemäldegalerie, Berlin - Germany
- The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC - USA
- MoMA, The Museum of Modern Art, NYC - USA
- Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid - Spain
- Museo Thyssen - Bornemisza, Madrid - Spain
- Museum Kampa, Prague - Czech Republic
- National Gallery, London - UK
- Palace of Versailles - France
- Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam - The Netherlands
- The State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg - Russia
- State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow - Russia
- Tate Britain, London - UK
- Uffizi Gallery, Florence - Italy
- Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam - The Netherlands
PSU's Electronic Classics Site - Free eBooks

Link: http://www2.hn.psu.edu/faculty/jmanis/jimspdf.htm

From their website: "From here you can access free files in Adobe®’s Portable Document Format. These files include original work published in hard copy by the Pennsylvania State University and classical works of literature in English.

However, you must agree to the following conditions before proceeding:

You agree to assume full responsibility for your actions in downloading any and all files from this site. Neither Jim Manis nor the Pennsylvania State University can be held responsible in any way for your actions in doing this. You assume full responsibility for the content of these files and for the files themselves as electronic transmissions or devices. If you agree to these terms, click on the appropriate site below."

You can then click on any of 159 authors (see partial illustration at right). In the example at right, I’ve clicked on Eugene O’Neill, so you can see the typical resulting page. The number of works under each author’s name range from 1 to some that have more than fifty. In total, it’s quite a collection of classic literature.

MOBY DICK;
OR
THE WHALE
by
Herman Melville

Arcademic Skill Builders

Link: http://www.arcademicskillbuilders.com/

From their website: “Our research-based and standards-aligned free educational math games and language arts games will engage, motivate, and help teach students. Click a button below to play our free multi-player and single-player games! In the future we’ll add features enabling you to save records, tailor content for differentiated instruction, and pinpoint student problem areas.”

Also, a blurb on student safety: “Your students are completely safe while playing the games. It is impossible for anyone outside your class to contact a student while playing the games. In our multiplayer games, if the student starts a ‘private’ game, then only players that know the password (created by the student) can join the game. All other players are not allowed to join that game. If the student starts a ‘public’ game, then any player from outside can join the game, but there is no contact between outside players and the student. We do not store the player ID’s that the student creates. We monitor player names and block inappropriate names created by the student.”
Welcome to Planet eBook, the home of free classic literature. All our novels and books are entirely free for you to download and share with your friends, classmates, students, anyone! Here's a list of the library...

- 1984 by George Orwell
- A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
- A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce
- A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens
- Aesop's Fables by Aesop
- Agnes Grey by Anne Brontë
- Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Caroll
- Andersen's Fairy Tales by Hans Christian Andersen
- Anne of Green Gables by Lucy Maud Montgomery
- Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy
- Around the World in 80 Days by Jules Verne
- Beyond Good and Evil by Friedrich Nietzsche
- Bleak House by Charles Dickens
- Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevsky
- David Copperfield by Charles Dickens
- Down and Out in Paris and London by George Orwell
- Dracula by Bram Stoker
- Dubliners by James Joyce
- Emma by Jane Austen
- Erewhon by Samuel Butler
- For the Term of His Natural Life by Marcus Clarke
- Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
- Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
- Grimm's Fairy Tales by the brothers Grimm
- Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift
- Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad
- Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
- Kidnapped by Robert Louis Stevenson
- Lady Chatterly's Lover by D. H. Lawrence
- Les Miserables by Victor Hugo
- Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
- Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert
- Middlemarch by George Eliot
- Moby Dick by Herman Melville
- Northanger Abbey by Jane Austen
- Nostromo: A Tale of the Seaboard by Joseph Conrad
- Notes from the Underground by Fyodor Dostoevsky
- Of Human Bondage by W. Somerset Maugham
- Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens
- Paradise Lost by John Milton
- Persuasion by Jane Austen
- Pollyanna by Eleanor H. Porter
- Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
- Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe
- Sense and Sensibility, by Jane Austen
- Sons and Lovers by D. H. Lawrence
- Swann's Way by Marcel Proust
- Tarzan of the Apes by Edgar Rice Burroughs
- Tender is the Night by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- Tess of the d’Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy
- The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
- The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
- The Brothers Karamazov, by Fyodor Dostoevsky
- The Great Gatsby
- The Hound of the Baskervilles by Arthur Conan Doyle
- The Idiot by Fyodor Dostoevsky
- The Iliad by Homer
- The Island of Doctor Moreau by H. G. Wells
- The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling
- The Last of the Mohicans by James Fenimore Cooper
- The Legend of Sleepy Hollow by Washington Irving
- The Odyssey by Homer
- The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood by Howard Pyle
- The Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka
- The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde
- The Portrait of a Lady by Henry James
- The Prince by Nicolo Machiavelli
- The Scarlet Pimpernel by Baroness Orczy
- The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson
- The Tales of Mother Goose by Charles Perrault
- The Thirty Nine Steps by John Buchan
- The Three Musketeers by Alexandre Duma
- The Time Machine by H. G. Wells
- The Trial by Franz Kafka
- The War of the Worlds by H. G. Wells
- Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
- Ulysses by James Joyce
- Utopia by Sir Thomas More
- Vanity Fair by William Makepeace Thackeray
- Within A Budding Grove by Marcel Proust
- Women In Love by D. H. Lawrence
- Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë
PDFescape - Free PDF Editor & PDF Form Filler

Link: http://www.pdfescape.com/

PDFescape is a free, online PDF reader, editor, form filler, & form designer. A new way to open and edit PDF files online, PDFescape frees users from the typical software requirements for using the de facto document file format. Completely online, PDFescape requires no more than a modern internet browser and an active internet connection.

At its heart, PDFescape is a free service. Users of PDFescape can upload files to view them, modify them, form fill them, and even create new forms. No logo, watermark, or other tag is added to your file. PDFescape is truly free.

PDFescape makes their money by hosting online PDF forms. PDF forms can merely be hosted or they can be submitted to you via email upon completion. Advanced access control measures allow you to specify the exact features of PDFescape which your users are allowed to use. You can even prohibit users from ever receiving a PDF copy of your document.

Classic Cat - Free Classical Music MP3 Downloads

Link: http://www.classiccat.net

Looking for classical mp3 downloads? Classic Cat indexes the free-to-download classical mp3s on the internet. You could classify it as a classical mp3 and video directory.

MusOpen - Set Music Free

Link: http://www.musopen.org

From their website: “Musopen is a 501(c)(3) non-profit focused on improving access and exposure to music by creating free resources and educational materials. We provide recordings, sheet music, and textbooks to the public for free, without copyright restrictions. Put simply, our mission is to set music free.”

You can browse mp3 music by artist or genre, performer, instrument, time period, or form (such as Rondo, Quartet, Overture, etc.). The online sheet music, which can be viewed online or download as PDF, can be browsed by the same categories as the mp3 music.

The site creators are looking for music theory volunteers to help them undertake a long overdue and challenging project: collaboratively write a public domain music theory text book. Currently, they are looking for help with the following:

- Section 2: Tonal Harmony – Chapter 12 – Modulation
- Section 3: Chromatic Harmony – Chapter 15 – Other Chromatic Chord
- Section 5: Twentieth-Century Techniques – Chapter 20 – Romantic
- Section 6: More Recent Types of Musical Analysis – Chapter 24 – Schenkerian Analysis
- Section 6: More Recent Types of Musical Analysis – Chapter 26 – Spectral Analysis

If you’re interesting in helping with this project, you can contact them through this online form: http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?key=0ApOEEJ8C9imRcHdYaDdrMFBScmILMWZrTno2SiIETGc&hl=en&cf=true

National Academy of Engineering Launches New Website

Link: http://www.engineeringmessages.org/

The National Academy of Engineering recently launched the new Changing the Conversation website. The goal of the new site is to promote broad implementation by the engineering community of the findings and recommendations presented in the 2008 NAE report, “Changing the Conversation: Messages for Improving Public Understanding of Engineering.”

The website addresses the image problem that engineering currently is facing. Important facets of this problem include the public’s perception of engineering, the lack of diversity in the engineering field and how the United States compares with other countries in terms of its engineering workforce. Recommended messages and taglines, examples of messaging by other organizations, and tips for effective messaging are provided on the site.

Engineers and others interested in the future of the profession are encouraged to join the conversation by registering at the site.

Questions about the Changing the Conversation website should be directed to Greg Pearson at gpearson@nae.edu.
**Nitro PDF Reader - Free, Fast, Powerful and Secure**


From their website: Create PDF files, comment and review, save PDF forms, extract text and images, type text directly onto the page, and more.

Nitro Reader utilizes the Microsoft Office-style Ribbon interface. Tasks and tools are separated into tabs, grouped by functionality, and represented graphically with easy-to-understand text labels, providing an immediately familiar user interface that won’t leave you searching for help.

Besides being a PDF reader, Nitro PDF Reader does even more! Nitro Reader offers PDF creation from over three hundred formats. Control the way you distribute your work and ensure the recipient enjoys the viewing experience you intended, by sharing documents in a reliable, universal format. You can drag almost any file onto the Nitro Reader desktop icon to create a PDF file, automatically opening the resultant PDF in Nitro Reader. This process can also be undertaken by simply dragging the file into the application’s Document pane. Nitro Reader offers in-application functionality to create PDF from any file, with predefined profiles, as well as completely customized output options. Installation of Nitro Reader also adds the Nitro PDF Creator to your list of available printers. From any application that can print, simply select the Nitro PDF Creator when printing to create a PDF.

Repurpose text easily by converting any PDF file to plain text format. Control the output by selecting whether you wish to retain paragraphs and headers/footers, as well as the ability to specify line-width by number of characters.

The Snapshot tool allows you to select any on-screen area, regardless of content, and copy it directly to your Clipboard for quick and easy reuse of images, text, or anything within your PDF file.

Nitro Reader enables you to save all images contained in a PDF document as separate files to any folder or destination without modifying the original PDF file. Specify the format (BMP, JPG, PNG, and TIF), differentiate between color and monochrome with separate options, and use the Extract Images tool to create an exhaustive inventory of graphical content from any PDF file. With intelligent extraction, Nitro Reader can even choose the most appropriate format for each image.

Nitro Reader, unlike some solutions, allows you to save any content entered in PDF form fields to retain an electronic copy of the completed form. You’ll never scan or unnecessarily physically mail a form again. You can also reset all fields, allowing you to reset the form to its original, un-filled state if needed.

Nitro Reader provides functionality to add virtual sticky notes anywhere within a document. Notes can be shown or hidden at will, providing an easy medium for you to draw attention to a particular area, or include special instructions for a document.

Highlight, cross-out, and underline text within PDF files, allowing you to draw attention to text requiring revision. Highlight a particular portion of text then add a comment to the highlight, which can be replied to in sequence, allowing for easy-to-follow document revision.

With the Type Text tool, you can easily add text directly onto the pages a document. Nitro Reader allows you to easily expand upon or add to a particular portion of text, in whatever font, size, and color you specify. Windows only.

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**AudioBook Maker (Mac)**


Audiobook Maker... Many websites, such as AudibleBooksForFree.com, offer lots of complete audiobooks for free. The only problem is that these books come in many small MP3 files. Drag and Drop: Easy! Audiobook Maker makes joining and converting these audiobook files a breeze. With the simplicity of OS X, you just drag your MP3 files onto Audiobook Maker and click go! Heaps of features Audiobook Maker makes audiobooks easy with many easy to use features: • Convert to MP3, AAC or iTunes Bookmarked AAC • Set many properties of your audiobook including bitrate, sampling frequency and number of channels • Preview any chapter with the built-in audio player • When you're done, automatically add the new book to your iTunes library • Reorder the chapters easily with drag and drop, or auto-sort • Export in a flash with FFmpeg and Apple's ChapterTool

Requirements: PPC / Intel, Mac OS X 10.3.9 or later.
NASA DLN Planetary Webcast Series

NASA's Digital Learning Network announces a series of monthly webcasts. Join Dr. Joel Levine each month as he features a different topic of planetary study and talks about what NASA has done to help us better understand our home planet and neighbors in our solar system. This series is designed to target middle school students.

Mars: Up Close and Personal
March 17, 2011, 1-2 p.m. EST
Join Dr. Joel Levine to learn more about the Red Planet. Today, Mars is a cold, dry, inhospitable planet with a very thin atmosphere. Scientists believe that early Mars was very hospitable with abundant surface water and atmospheric pressure similar to Earth’s. This webcast will explore Mars’ past and what makes Mars and Earth so different today.

The Heat Is On: Global Warming -- Causes and Consequences
April 21, 2011, 1-2 p.m. EST
Join Dr. Joel Levine to learn more about global warming and how it is affecting our planet. The temperature of the surface of Earth and the other planets is controlled by incoming solar radiation and the outgoing thermal or infrared radiation generated at the surface by the absorption of the incoming solar radiation. This webcast will discuss the causes and consequences of global warming.

NASA's Digital Learning Network allows the next generation of explorers to connect with scientists, engineers and researchers without leaving the classroom. The network provides distance-learning events designed to educate through demonstrations and real time interactions with NASA experts.

For more information about this series of webcast events, visit
http://dln.nasa.gov/dln/

If you have any questions about this webcast series, please contact Caryn Long at Caryn.Long@nasa.gov.

Teaching From Space Seeks Educators to Defy Gravity

Teaching From Space, a NASA Education office, in partnership with the Reduced Gravity Education Flight Program announces the opportunity for educators across the country to conduct research in a unique reduced-gravity environment. For the first time, this incredible opportunity is open to any current K-12 classroom teacher in the United States. Participants must also be U.S. citizens.

This experience will enable selected educator teams to propose, design and fabricate a reduced-gravity experiment and subsequently test and evaluate their experiment aboard a microgravity aircraft. This aircraft flies approximately 30 roller-coaster-like climbs and dips to produce periods of micro- and hyper-gravity, ranging from 0 g’s to 2 g’s.

Educator teams interested in testing an experiment in this unique environment need to submit a proposal no later than March 14, 2011. For more information, check out
http://microgravityuniversity.jsc.nasa.gov/tfs
or send an e-mail to jsc-rgeducator@nasa.gov.

2010-2011 Green Aviation Student Competitions

The Environmentally Responsible Aviation Project invites students from high school grades through graduate school to research and design a large passenger aircraft that is less noisy, less harmful to the environment, and more fuel-efficient than current models. The competition has two divisions: High School and College/University. Teams or individuals may enter. At the college level, inter-institutional partnerships are permitted and interdisciplinary collaboration is encouraged.

High school participants must be enrolled in an accredited high school, secondary school or home school. For the high school division, the deadline for papers is March 15, 2011.

Undergraduate and graduate participants must be enrolled full time in an accredited college or university. For the college and university division, the deadline for design papers is May 2, 2010.

International students may participate, but they are not eligible for cash prizes or student internships.

For more information about the contest, visit
http://aero.larc.nasa.gov/competitions.htm

Questions about the contest should be directed to Dr. Elizabeth Ward at Elizabeth.B.Ward@nasa.gov.
K9 Web Protection Browser for iPhone, iPod touch, iPad

Blue Coat has extended our K9 Web Protection technology to protect families browsing the Internet on the iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad. The K9 Web Protection Browser app is a safe web browser available for free from the App Store. The browser automatically blocks adult content and malicious sites.

Do the following to install K9 Web Protection Browser:

1. Go to the App Store and search for “K9”.
2. Install the K9 Web Protection Browser app.
3. Disable the built-in web browser by following the steps below:
   1. Go to “Settings” >> “General” >> “Restrictions”.
   2. Press [Enable Restrictions] and enter a 4-digit password (twice). This will be the password needed to change or remove restrictions in the future.
   3. Under the “Allow:” section, toggle Safari to [Off]. This will disable the built-in Safari web browser, which does not have any filtering or controls.

   You may also want to decide if you want to disable any other functionality. For example:
   - YouTube: This app allows unfiltered access to YouTube. If you do not want your child to view YouTube videos, toggle to [Off].
   - iTunes: This app provides access to the iTunes store. Purchases will only be allowed with the iTunes password, however.
   - Installing Apps: This will allow the device user to install other apps.
   - Location: This will allow apps to use your general location (as determined by wireless towers or internet access point).

4. Under the “Allowed Content:” section, change the settings for “Music & Podcasts”, “Movies”, “TV Shows” and “Apps” to the appropriate level for your family. Specifically under the “Apps” section, you will want to set the setting to “12+” or less. Otherwise, the user can download another unfiltered browser app (which are generally rated as 17+).

You are done! This should allow you to use K9 Web Protection Browser as a safe browser for your iDevice.

If you like the app, please rate it in the App Store (they love 5-star ratings!) and leave a positive review. This will help others find the app more easily.

If you have any questions about installing or using the product, please go to their support system or simply click the [Help] link in the K9 administration interface. If you have non-support-related questions or comments, visit their feedback page.

Did you know that K9 Web Protection is now available for small organizations (business, school, church, non-profit, etc.)?

http://www1.k9webprotection.com/aboutk9/protect-my-organization

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MathRef for iPhone/iPad (99¢)


Math Ref is a math reference application that includes over 1,400 helpful formulas, figures, tips and examples of the equations and concepts. You can try MathRef Free before you decide to buy the paid version.

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Point Slope Formula

Given a point $P(a,b)$, the point slope form of a line can be written as:

$$y - b = m(x - a)$$

Standard m x n Matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{1,1} & a_{1,2} & \ldots & a_{1,n} \\ a_{2,1} & a_{2,2} & \ldots & a_{2,n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m,1} & a_{m,2} & \ldots & a_{m,n} \end{bmatrix}$$

Identity

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \ldots & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
PI83 Graphing Calculator for iPhone/iPad (99¢)

The PI83 Graphing Calculator is an iPhone app designed to replace the Texas Instruments TI83 graphing calculator. With over 100 math functions, it makes expensive and bulky graphing calculators a thing of the past.

The PI83 also timestamps all screenshots to facilitate use in classrooms and for test-taking. Teachers can see both the time that the app was opened and the time the screenshot was taken in order to ensure that the student did not exit the app to look up answers.

Essay Grader Mobile for iPhone/iPad ($2.99)

Provide your students with exceptional feedback and reduce your grading time with Essay Grader. By moving back and forth between a series of tabs and clicking the appropriate comment fields, a feedback document is created for each essay you grade. The comment sheet can either be emailed directly to the student or exported to your computer for editing and printing.

Essay Grader comes with three banks of pre-written comments for a multitude of topics within the categories of praise, organization, content, mechanics, style, and documentation. All comments are fully editable, and Essay Grader even comes with three empty banks where you can write entirely original comments of your own.

The first and last paragraphs of the feedback document are optional free-write paragraphs where you have the ability to personalize each student’s feedback sheet. Essay Grader is not automatic grading software. Rather, the app helps you avoid having to hand write the same comments over and over again and gives you the ability to provide more targeted and more comprehensive feedback than you can with a red pen. When you finish choosing the appropriate comments, simply assign a holistic grade on the “Grade” tab and that grade will appear at the bottom of the student’s feedback sheet.

Dramatically decrease your grading time, provide praise, and give more thorough feedback than you’ve ever been able to give before with this smart and effective iPhone App. Essay Grader was developed by a college English professor with extensive secondary experience and is appropriate for all levels from secondary through graduate-level university academics.

Air Sketch for iPad ($7.99)

Turn your iPad into a wireless whiteboard! Annotate PDF documents and images live. You can now project PDF documents (such as exported PowerPoint or Keynote decks) to a computer on the same local network, then annotate them in real time, all from your iPad.

Air Sketch is great for presentations in the boardroom, classroom, or on the go. Just fire up Air Sketch on the iPad and open the specified URL from any HTML-5 compatible browser on the local network. Your photos and drawings show up natively in the browser. There’s no additional client software to install, or services to subscribe to.

Tip: You can also find the link in Desktop Safari’s Bonjour bookmarks: Show All Bookmarks menu - Bonjour.

No longer be tethered to the podium! Connect your laptop to a projector to present and draw from your iPad as you walk around the room. You can also easily pass your iPad around to allow others to contribute.

Incorporate the iPad into your desktop-based workflow: Record videos of your live Air Sketch drawings, or share them live with remote colleagues via any online meeting or desktop sharing software (such as iChat or WebEx).

Note: Air Sketch is designed to work optimally with landscape documents and with a single computer connected to the same local network as your iPad.

There is also a Lite version that’s free.
**My GeoReader (Android App - Free)**

**Link:** [http://www.mygeoreader.com/](http://www.mygeoreader.com/)

What does the app do? The GeoReader app allows your Android phone to say aloud any written text anywhere in the world.

- Pick a point, write a description. When visited, users hear the description.
- Share your points with other users and see how often they get read.
- Assign tags to points, so you can only see what you are interested in.

Limitless Landmarks: Create and share your talking points, browse other users, or even use official landmarks across the US. Listen as you drive: Hear what markers say as you drive, without stopping to read, making your trip more enjoyable. All hands-free, driver-friendly.

**YouTube Demo Video:** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkAQoCtdiHU&feature=player_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkAQoCtdiHU&feature=player_embedded)

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**eClicker (Free) eClicker Host ($9.99) iPhone/iPad**


**Product Overview:** [http://overview.eclicker.com](http://overview.eclicker.com)

eClicker is a personal response system that allows teachers to poll their class during a lesson. It provides teachers with the real-time feedback they need to be sure their messages are being received. Developed for smartphones and laptops, eClicker leverages the hardware already in the hands of many students providing a low cost polling solution for the classroom. All you need to get started is the eClicker Host app running on an iOS device, a Wi-Fi network, and students with internet-enabled devices to participate.

**Features**

- Wi-Fi based classroom response system for up to 64 clients*
- Students can participate with any internet-enabled device
- Edit questions on your computer or iOS device
- Add images to questions or draw your own
- Share question sets with other teachers via Bluetooth**
- Poll questions one-at-a-time or back-to-back
- Review historical polling data and email reports

* 32 clients on the iPhone or iPod touch
** feature not supported on the first generation iPhone and iPod touch

The eClicker system is made up of of two parts: the host and the client(s). Teachers use the host app to enter questions and begin the polling. Students participate in polls by entering the host’s address in a web browser using any internet-enabled device. Additionally, there is a free client app available for iOS devices that speeds up the process of connecting to a host over the Wi-Fi network.

Questions can be edited on a computer @ [http://editor.eclicker.com](http://editor.eclicker.com) by first creating an account within the eClicker Host app (check the ‘Settings’ screen). When done editing sync your account to download any changes.

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**QuintessArt - Virtual Art Gallery & Museum**

**Link:** [http://www.appbrain.com/app/quintessart/com.masterdevx.quintessart](http://www.appbrain.com/app/quintessart/com.masterdevx.quintessart)

QuintessArt is a Museum, an Art Gallery from greatest masters of history for Android. QuintessArt proposes nice user experience when searching for paintings or visiting galleries. The application provides slideshow, wallpapers, cool search interface and suggestions, making you discover new paintings. Quintessart ables to manage bookmarks, notes, tags and sharing paintings, notes, bookmarks, tags by mail/facebook/twitter/picasa/pipel... and a quiz to learn more about painters and currents.

**YouTube Video Demos:** [http://www.youtube.com/user/quintessart](http://www.youtube.com/user/quintessart)
iPad Apps for Education

**iBrainstorm for iPad and iPhone (Free)**


Capturing and sharing your inner most creative genius has never been easier. Introducing the first multi-device collaboration tool from Universal Mind. From iPhone to iPad with just a flick of the finger, iBrainstorm has set the bar and has redefined the very nature of collaboration.

Think it. Share it. Love it!

Look for our other iBrainstorm app for the iPhone - iBrainstorm Companion!

iBrainstorm Companion is used to connect to a running session of iBrainstorm on the iPad. It gives up to 4 people, the ability to create ideas on their iPhones and ‘flick’ them over to the iPad! It makes the brainstorming process engaging and fun. Give it a try!

We created iBrainstorm as a pet project and it quickly elevated to an integral part of our normal User Experience Design (UX) process. It is now a part of our best practices in our methodology. We’ve decided to share this product with the UX community and hope that you’ll find it as valuable as we do!

The design of this application was based around the way that we work at Universal Mind. We expect you to have other use cases and needs. Help us to make iBrainstorm better by giving it a strong rating and sharing your thoughts on improving it. We’ll do our best to support your requests and questions in a timely manner.

**Idea Sketch for iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch (Free)**


Idea Sketch lets you easily draw a diagram - mind map, concept map, or flow chart - and convert it to a text outline, and vice versa. You can use Idea Sketch for anything, such as brainstorming new ideas, illustrating concepts, making lists and outlines, planning presentations, creating organizational charts, and more!

Share Your Ideas: Diagrams can be saved to the Photos app, which are then synced to your desktop computer. You can also copy-and-paste diagrams and outlines into any other app on your iPhone. You can even upload diagrams to your Facebook account!

Easy-to-Use: Idea Sketch is designed to be intuitive and easy to use. You’ll be creating and editing diagrams and outlines right away.

No Drawing Required: Just enter your text and move the shapes around, Idea Sketch handles all the drawing.

**GoodReader for iPad ($2.99)**


Quick summary: super-robust PDF reader with advanced reading, annotating, markup and highlighting capabilities, excellent file manager, TXT file reader and editor, audio/video player, Safari-like viewer for MS Office and iWorks files.

If you need to read huge PDF, or TXT files, you’ve come to the right place.

PDF Annotations, Markup & Highlighting is also our strength. Sticky notes, lines, arrows, freehand drawings on top of a PDF file - you name it. And the best part is that all annotations become a part of a PDF file itself - email it to your colleague, and she will see all your notes and drawings on a desktop computer, in a common PDF reading program.

Within moments of downloading GoodReader, you’ll be transferring files directly from your computer over a USB cable, Wi-Fi connection, from the Internet or from email attachments. It also easily integrates with MobileMe iDisk, Google Docs, Dropbox, box.net, and other popular servers.

Miss a good file manager? GoodReader comes in handy. Create folders, move, copy and rename your files; zip, email and unzip them; send your files to other apps.

Pictures split in halves across two PDF pages? Not a problem! We offer a special double-page mode for this. And if large white page margins annoy you, get rid of them with our PDF crop tool.

With no bars or buttons blocking the text, you have true full screen reading. The PDF hyperlink feature allows you to quickly jump back and forth within the document. Tapping a link will whisk you across a huge PDF book in an instant, and the “Go Back” button takes you back to the page you came from. If you already know what you’re looking for, the Text Search feature helps you find your way to the exact info you want in any PDF or TXT file. You can even use the 50x zoom, which gives you a better view, without distorting the image. That makes it perfect for viewing PDF maps or drawings.

GoodReader supports massive PDF and TXT files, but it can also handle all of the most popular file types. Have a look for yourself:

- MS Office - .doc, .ppt, .xls and more
- iWork'08/'09
- HTML and Safari webarchives
- High resolution images
- It even does audio and video!
Utah’s NASA Educator Resource Center for Teachers

Link: http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlnasa/

You may wonder why there’s so much NASA stuff in the UCET newsletters? That’s because I am Director of the NASA Educator Resource Center at Utah State University, which is your liaison to NASA educational opportunities and materials for teachers. So what is a NASA Educator Resource Center?

As NASA explores frontiers of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), it seeks to assist teachers and students to explore them as well. NASA also encourages youth to explore STEM careers. Through its dissemination network, NASA provides educational materials, information, services, and other resources to our nation’s classrooms. NASA Educator Resource Centers and NASA Regional Educator Resource Centers are part of this network that serve both formal educators (public school teachers) and informal educators (homeschool parents, etc.) for the state in which they reside.

If you have questions about NASA or its mission; need NASA related classroom materials such as lesson plans, pictures, videos, computer software; help with workshops, etc., then please contact the center for your region. Your local NASA Educator Resource Center can best help you with educational needs specific to your state’s standards and objectives. A complete list of addresses and contacts can be found at the NASA website. You’ll also want to visit the large collection of resources at the NASA Central Operation of Resources for Educators (CORE) website and NASA’s main website.

Whenever NASA releases new educational materials to the public, you can learn of and access these materials easily! All you need do is join the EXPRESS mailing list for educators to receive announcements of new NASA education publications, Central Operation of Resources for Educators (CORE) multimedia materials, and other opportunities for educators.

If you’d ever like to visit or contact the NASA Educator Resource Center for Utah, here’s the contact info:

The Adele & Dale Young Education Technology Center
2845 Old Main Hill - 170 EDUC
Utah State University
Logan, Utah 84322-2845

Voice: (435) 797-3377
Fax: (435) 797-3939
Contact: Nathan Smith (Nathan.Smith@usu.edu)
Website: http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/

Reference Guide to the International Space Station

Link: http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlnasa/OtherPRINT/briefs/508318main_ISS_ref_guide_nov2010.pdf

This wonderful, lavishly illustrated reference guide to the International Space Station is now available to teachers everywhere.

“Assembly of the International Space Station (ISS) is a remarkable achievement. Since November 2, 2000, humankind has maintained a continuous presence in space. Over this timespan, the ISS international Partnership has flourished. We have learned much about construction and about how humans and spacecraft systems function on orbit. But there is much more to do and learn, and this voyage of research and discovery is just beginning. We now shift our focus from ISS assembly to full ISS utilization for scientific research, technology development, exploration, commerce, and education. We need to approach this next research phase with the same dedication, zeal, and innovation that we used to assemble the ISS. United States research concentrates on biology, human research, physical science and materials, Earth and space science, and technology for exploration beyond low-Earth orbit. As a national laboratory, the ISS is beginning to provide new opportunities for other agencies, academia, and commercial and other partners to pursue novel avenues of research and development, and to promote science, technology, engineering, and math education. We cannot now foresee all that may be uncovered on this voyage, but we look forward to the voyage and returning knowledge to extend the human presence beyond and improve life here on Earth.

—William H. Gerstenmaier, Associate Administrator-NASA Space Operations Mission Directorate”
SpinLab Brochure - NASA Spinoffs

Link: http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlnasa/Other-PRINT/briefs/spinlabposter.pdf

It IS rocket science! That's the point. A spinoff is technology created by NASA that trickles down to our everyday use. From new roller coasters to cool guitars, spinoffs are a segment of NASA just as revolutionary as space exploration.

This brochure focuses on NASA spinoffs and how they impact our daily lives. Directed at a school age audience, this is fun to look at through 3D glasses!

NASA has a spinoff specific site, where you can download PDF copies of NASA's Spinoff magazine for each year - they're interesting reading, and you'd be amazed at the new technologies. Have a look...

Link: http://www.sti.nasa.gov/tto/index.html

Some Other Neat NASA Spinoff Materials for Classrooms

The images below are hyperlinked to the PDF versions online. Click on any image to go download your copy today. Below are the You're Welcome brochure & Timeline Poster.

2010-2011 NASA Future of Flight Art Contest

NASA's Future of Flight Art Contest invites students to imagine what spaceships, rockets or aircraft will look like 100 years from now. High school and college students from all areas of study are encouraged to enter. Artists are encouraged to collaborate with science and engineering students. Any full-time student can enter, regardless of major or area of study. Team entries are accepted, but team size is limited to eight students.

Entries will be accepted in the following categories: two-dimensional art, three-dimensional art, digital (including music and video) and literature (poetry and short stories). Entries will be evaluated on creativity and artistic qualities. Prizes include awards and exhibit opportunities.

Entries are due April 15, 2011.

For more information about the NASA Future of Flight Art Contest, visit http://artcontest.larc.nasa.gov/

Questions about the contest should be directed to Elizabeth Ward at Elizabeth.B.Ward@nasa.gov.
Smart Skies™ LineUp with Math™

Be An Air Traffic Controller!

Students visit: www.atcsim.nasa.gov

Distance-Rate-Time Problems in Air Traffic Control
Grades 5-9
www.nasa.gov

Free Teacher Materials at:
www.smartskies.nasa.gov

Smart Skies™ FlyBy Math™

Distance-Rate-Time Problems
Grades 5-9
FREE materials at:
www.smartskies.nasa.gov

Multiple Mathematical Representations

Real-World Air-Traffic Problems

Hands-On Experiments

Online Linked Visualization Tool

www.nasa.gov
New Educational Materials Available at NASA.gov

The Educational Materials section of NASA's Web site offers classroom activities, educator guides, posters and other types of resources that are available for use in the classroom. Materials are listed by type, grade level and subject. The following items are now available for downloading.

**Color NASA -- Grades K-4**

In this interactive online resource, students select an image and read about some of the plants and animals that live at different NASA centers. Students can choose a picture to color online, or print the drawing and color.

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/Color_NASA.html

**Structures and Materials: Shuttle Tiles Educator Guides -- Grades 2-12**

The space shuttle has made space exploration history over the past 30 years by regularly traveling through extreme temperature fluctuations. Scientists and engineers collaborated to develop unique materials to withstand extreme temperatures. This led to the development of the unique “skin” of shuttle tiles.

NASA is offering space shuttle tiles to schools on a first-come, first-served, one-per-institution basis. The Structure and Materials Shuttle Tile Educator Guides contain mathematics- and science-related activities for using the tiles.


**Signals and Noise, Oh Boy! -- Grades 3-5**

Students are introduced to the terms “signal” and “noise” in the context of spacecraft communication. They explore these concepts by listening to a computer-generated signal from two different distances with no additional background noise, and then with background noise. They compare their experiences in a science journal page.


**Reduced Gravity Opportunity Bookmark -- Grades K-12**

The downloadable bookmark invites educators and students to propose an experiment to fly on NASA’s Reduced Gravity aircraft. Teams of educators will be competitively selected to travel to NASA’s Johnson Space Center to fly along with their experiments.

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/Reduced_Gravity_Bookmark.html

**Johnny’s Airport Adventure Educator Guide -- Grades K-4**

Promote interest in airplanes and air transportation in young students using role play. This educator guide consists of seven science-, mathematics-, or language-based activities including a storyboard and role-play activity. The storyboard introduces students to airport and aircraft terminology including engine types. The accompanying role-play story of Johnny’s Airport Adventure takes children on a pretend trip to the airport and then on an airplane from Cleveland to San Diego. Complete with cutout characters, labels and aircraft, the educator guide also includes worksheets and a list of suggested props to use with the role-playing activity. Spanish language worksheets and activities are provided.

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/Johnny_Airport_Adventure.html

**2009 NASA Education Highlights -- All Educators**

NASA is taking a leading role in the effort to inspire interest in STEM through its unique mission, workforce, facilities, research and innovations. NASA is continuing to pursue three major education goals: strengthening NASA's and the nation's future workforce, attracting and retaining students in STEM disciplines, and engaging Americans in NASA's mission. Read the highlights of NASA's education strategy in pursuance of these goals, and learn about the education milestones and accomplishments achieved by NASA Education in 2009.

Craig Boogaard - Coalition Board Member

Craig Boogaard worked in Jordan School District for 13 years, including five years as a fifth-grade teacher, five years as a special education teacher, and three years as district special education coordinator for technology. Craig has been the director of The Computer Center for Citizens With Disabilities since 1989. In this capacity he has had extensive experience in assisting children and adults with the appropriate selection of assistive technology tools. He also works closely with the UAAACT teams in the public schools.

New and Exciting Assistive Technology Tools

by Craig Boogaard, Utah Center for Assistive Technology
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Phone: 801-887-9533
Fax: 801-887-9382
E-mail: cboogaar@utah.gov

Assistive technology can enhance student learning, especially when the student embraces the tools provided. New tools are providing alternative methods for students who struggle with traditional note-taking, writing, and communication. This article will describe three new AT tools that are being enthusiastically included in the daily routines of students with disabilities.

The Pulse SmartPen is an AT product that is making note-taking easier for students with poor organization skills or ineffective handwriting strategies. This pen captures not only what the student writes, but also what they hear!

In the example above, a student listened to me as I explained the accessibility features (student wrote “feechers”), built into the Microsoft Windows Vista computer operating system. To some observers, the student’s notes may appear to be incomplete or even difficult to read. But the student was doing more that just writing a few words – he was recording every word I said.

Using special paper, the student touches the tip of the pen to the “Record” button on the bottom left corner of the page when he wants to record a lecture or classroom discussion. As the student starts writing, the recorded message is synchronized to the word (diagram, doodle mark, etc.) that he wrote on the paper. To play back a recording, the student touches the tip of the pen to the word (or doodle mark) associated with the recording and listens to what was spoken when he was writing that word or drawing that doodle mark.

Amazing - almost magical technology for a student who has a difficult time taking notes in class.

A 2GB Pulse SmartPen retails for about $149. The pen has a built-in microphone and speaker, will store approximately 200 hours of recorded speech, and can also be used to transfer audio files to a computer. The pen comes with a cradle that connects to a computer USB port and spiral bound smart paper. For more information, see:

http://www.livescribe.com/

Speech recognition, the technology that lets you talk to the computer rather than type on the keyboard, is another technology that has tremendous potential to assist students with limited writing skills. WordQ with SpeakQ, a software combination, includes a slightly different approach to speech recognition. The “speak and select” setting in WordQ with SpeakQ feature, allows the user to speak a phrase and then select the correct phrase from a short list generated by the software.

In the writing sample above, the user dictated the phrase, “In some tragic cases.” The second phrase in the list has the exact phrase the writer wants. They would press the number “2” key on the keyboard and that phrase would be correctly added to the composition. Since WordQ with SpeakQ knows that a sentence should start with a capital letter, the software will capitalize the word “in” as the phrase flows from the list of phrases, into the document.

In most speech recognition software, the computer does not give you a choice of phrases. It just inserts the text it thinks you said. Since the first phrase inserted is not always what you want, you may end up with recognition errors because the computer did not recognize the exact word or phrase you dictated.
For young speech recognition users, this speak and select option will allow them to repeat a word or phrase until the short list contains exactly what they want to add to their document. Then they simply select the correct phrase by choosing the corresponding number.

A high quality USB microphone is recommended when attempting to use this software. WordQ, the word prediction portion of the software, is $199. To add the SpeakQ plug in, there is an additional $99 charge. WordQ is available in Macintosh or Windows versions. SpeakQ is Windows only. A free, fully functional 30 day demo version of WordQ with SpeakQ is available at: www.wordq.com

A FREE speech recognition program is included in Windows Vista and Windows 7 computers. Although this application has been free on Windows-based computers for about three years, there are still a lot of people who do not know they have FREE access to speech recognition. Windows speech recognition has many of the same voice recognition features as Dragon NaturallySpeaking, a commercial product that is often the software of choice for those who want to dictate text instead of typing their documents. These voice recognition products can be a nice writing alternative for individuals with learning disabilities or other writing limitations.

Learn more about Windows Speech Recognition
Learn more about Dragon NaturallySpeaking

Proloquo2go is one of the most exciting new software programs that I have seen in a long time. This app. runs great on an Apple iPod touch, iPhone, and presumably the new iPad. With some of the same features as the "high tech" and high priced ($6,000-$8,000) speech generating devices, Proloquo2go on an iPod Touch, with an iMainGo2 speaker and case can cost less than $600.

As most people know, the iPod Touch has a built-in touch window. The user presses the symbol that represents the desired message, and the message is spoken in an easy to understand computer voice. In addition to the symbol based vocabulary selection option shown above, the user also has two on-screen keyboard options for a text-to-speech mode of communication. That means this device could serve a wide range of students abilities, assisting them with their communication needs.

One of the things our non-verbal students love about this combination is that the technology is socially acceptable. It is cool to have an iPod Touch! And it is functional to have a communication tool that can speak a typed message or a stored message, selected by touching the symbol associated with the stored message.

As I work with students who have disabilities, it is exciting for me to see how assistive technology tools are supporting their pursuit of IEP goals. If you’d like more information on these products or other assistive technology tools that may help your students, please feel free to contact Craig Boogaard at the Utah Center for Assistive Technology (UCAT). Another great resource for help when you’re looking for assistive technology tools are the UAAACT teams. For more information on the UAAACT teams see: www.uaaact.org

Charlie Roberts-UCET Board

Charlie Roberts was elected to the UCET board at the 2010 UCET conference. Mr. Roberts works for the Washington County School District (WCSD), where he is the Technology & Media Director for the district. He has held that position for the last seven years.

Prior to his current position Charlie was a high school media coordinator for ten years at Pine View High School in WCSD, and before that he was a science, math, and vocational education teacher (now CTE) for ten years at Pine View High School.

Other teaching positions held by Charlie included science, math, and computer science at Granite High School, and he taught science and math at Meeteetse Unified, a one school school district in northwest Wyoming.

Besides being on the UCET board, Charlie is co-chair of the TCC board. He has served on various state level boards and committees over the last several years. He is a CMAp trainer, and manages WCSD’s Technology Endorsement Program which is a state recognized endorsement program. He has been a member of ISTE since 1989 (before ISTE was ISTE).

Mr. Roberts’ aspirations for UCET is to establish an annual UCET conference in Southern Utah that focuses on technology integration for teachers. Towards this goal he is taking the lead in planning a conference for the 13th and 14th of October which will be held at Desert Hills High School, the newest secondary school in WCSD. The conference will be open to state wide registration, so for those of you who like to visit Utah’s Dixie in the late fall to enjoy the great weather and sites, think about putting this technology conference on your schedule.

Becoming a member of UCET is easy! Just register for the annual UCET Conference and you automatically become a member of UCET!
A Message from UCET’s President:

Thank you UCET attendees!

The UCET board would like to thank all of our conference attendees, presenters, vendors, volunteers, student poster presenters, speakers, Canyon District techs and administration and board members for making UCET such as success. We appreciate the work of JP Display in setting up the vendor floor and booth. Jason’s Deli did a great job in providing delicious lunches and treats.

UCET 2011 had over 1200 attendees and over 200 sessions. The UCET board and UCET vendors gave away several thousands of dollars of hardware and software in the Friday and Saturday drawings. Three lucky attendees won an iPad 2.

Many of our vendors remarked that this was one of the best conferences they have attended and that they appreciated the opportunity to show our teachers some of their products.

We hope that you had a good experience at the UCET conference. We will be holding next year’s conference at Jordan High, so we are looking for ways to improve your conference experience. We do listen to your suggestions, so if you wish to discuss any ways you see that we can improve your conference experience, please contact us.

We look forward to seeing you next year’s conference to be held on March 2-3, 2012.

Bonnie Muir, UCET President

In This Issue...

UCET 2011 Award Winners: Charlie Roberts, Phil Thacker, Kathy Webb, Katie Blunt, James Baker

Technology News & Events: Utah’s First Lego League; 10 Tablets to Watch in 2011; Amazon Announces Cloud Drive;

Website & Curriculum Resources: Curr-riki; FREE, Library of Congress for Teachers; Academic Earth; National Science Digital Library; PBS Teachers; Teacher’s Domain; TeAchnology; Verizon Thinkfinity; Microsoft Math 4.0 - Now a Free Download; WunderList; New Google Realtime Search; Edmodo; SchoolStream; Free Play Music Stock Music; NASA Teaching from Space; Google Apps for Education; vusafe - safely use YouTube in the Classroom; Closing the Gap Between High School and College; Common Sense Educational Programs - Digital Citizenship Lessons for Kids

Mobile Devices and Apps: AppStart for iPad; Did You Know These iPad/ iPhone Tips and Tricks?

Computer Applications: OpenOffice for Kids (ages 7-12); Macintosh Preview App Tips and Tricks
UCET 2011 Award Winners!

Jack Erickson Excellence in Technology Service Award - Phil Thacker

Phil has worked for NUES for about 20 years; for many of those years he repaired A/V, equipment, computers, and printers. For the past four years, he has worked both for NUES doing repairs as well as assisting with network engineering duties, and two days a week he works for Wasatch SD.

Phil is a certified Apple support technician, and certified HP repair technician. In his network support role, he assists districts with desktop deployment using DeployStudio and other tools. He is knowledgeable about servers and network hardware configuration. Phil is a master at diagnosing problems and mitigating them. At an earlier time in his life, he ran a TV repair shop; thus, he has an extensive knowledge of electronics at the board level.

He constantly attends training, both online and on site, as required to maintain his repair certifications. Over the past few years, as NUES re-oriented his job from repair to technical support, he has adapted readily, learning new skills as needed by the nine districts he supports. As a person working peripherally in education, he is ready and willing to learn—a valuable trait in his field.

Phil is absolutely unstinting with his time. He is completely willing to rearrange his schedule in order to accommodate the districts he serves. He is a self-starter and does not require supervision in his work. He seeks solutions with great tenacity, and is not afraid to try new methods.

Phil is a totally honest person. He has raised seven children with his wife (who was his high school sweetheart). He is devoted to his family and his church.

One of the best things about Phil is his gentle, quiet personality. He never complains, no matter what happens.

Technology Leader of the Year - Charlie Roberts

Charlie Roberts, from the Washington County School District, is a model of what a technology director and leader in education should be. He has tremendous vision in guiding his district forward into the ever-changing world of technology; he leads his staff, school administration, and district educators by his actions and example, and truly enables the success of everyone he works with.

Charlie has moved the implementation and use of technology forward in his district with true vision and insight. Washington County School District has seen probably more growth than any other district in the state over the past 15-20 years, but where you would expect to see gaps and ‘growing pains’ of this expansion; his schools are amazingly connected and use technology extremely well. Charlie is not afraid to boldly take action and think outside of the box. His district was the first to move away from the time and expense of maintaining email services for his schools and move to Google Services. Many in our region thought he was mad at the time, but now every school in the SEDC region are using these services and the amazing tools that come along with the email - and it is saving us ALL time and money. It has been one of the best changes we have made in a long time.

Charlie leads not by dictate, but by his actions. Teachers in his district are doing amazing things with technology - and being recognized for this by winning statewide classroom grants for their innovation. This is due to Charlie getting his hands ‘dirty’, so to speak, year-round by working with a new cohort of teachers through their Technology Endorsements throughout the school year and by offering a wide array of summer sessions to his teachers that just can’t make it to Salt Lake for the great things that UEN has to offer teachers on the Wasatch Front. In this regard, he has almost single-handedly brought a ‘UCET South’ to the teachers in southern Utah who have a hard time getting up north. He does not lead by telling his teachers to go out and figure out the dizzying array of technologies available for themselves, but by working with them week after week to guide their way.

Charlie is tremendously supportive of the efforts of everyone around him. Each year, he strongly encourages his teacher cohort to submit grant applications for the creative technology projects they are doing in their classrooms. This in itself is not unusual. What IS unusual is that he’ll fund the grants of the teachers who were NOT awarded grants to ensure that they will be successful. Not only is he supportive of his staff and the teachers of his district, but also works extremely hard in collaboration with the other technology directors of the region and with the SEDC Tech Team members. He spent an amazing amount of time and effort working on new Acceptable Use Policy templates that our region districts, and many other districts in the state, are using as a guide.

These are only a few of the great things that Charlie Roberts has done to move technology in education forward in his own district, in the region, and in the state.
Outstanding Young Educator Award - Katie Blunt

In her role as one of the District’s educational technology specialists, Katie has played a pivotal role in helping us establish the new district’s information technology infrastructure, as well as our educational technology strategies. One of my top priorities as the superintendent of this new district is to insure that every teacher and student has access to, understands, and develops the skills to use the ever increasing array of technological tools available to improve classroom instruction and student achievement. Katie has been a leader among her peers not only in the District Office, but also in the schools, to help me and her direct supervisors implement this vision.

Among the many things Katie has accomplished in the past year and a half, she has:

1) developed and taught professional development classes on educational technology basics, as well as Web 2.0 tools and applications;
2) produced and published podcast series on YouTube and iTunes U for Sprucewood, Willow Canyon, Willow Springs and Sunrise Elementary Schools;
3) worked with principals and teachers throughout the District to pilot iPod, iPad, and NetBooks projects in the classroom;
4) led a collaborative project with the District’s Evidence-Based Learning, Career and Technical Education, and Information Technology Departments to design, train, implement and collect data for a district-wide elementary school keyboarding curriculum;
5) recorded and edited a movie and series of podcasts featuring student athletes from BYU and the University of Utah called “Y Should U Read”, to encourage summer reading with Sprucewood Elementary students;
6) assisted in the technical arrangements and broadcasting of communication between astronauts on the International Space Station and sixth grade students at Midvalley Elementary;
7) assisted the District’s Evidence-Based Learning Department in teaching trainings on Pearson Successnet to help teachers implement the District’s new elementary math curriculum;
8) modeled lessons daily in every grade and subject area in grades K-6 to help teachers integrate technology into core curriculum;
9) created trainings and documentation to help teachers in their use of Skyward for grade book, attendance, report cards, and employee access; and
10) helped schools write grants for technology purchases.

Perhaps most impressively, Katie has, together with her colleagues, accomplished all of these things in a very short time and under some very challenging circumstances, as the expectations of parents and employees in a new district have been extremely high and deadlines short.

Making It Happen Award - Kathy Webb

Kathleen Webb graduated from Southern Utah University with degrees in English and Computer Science. She began her teaching career at Cedar High School in Cedar City, Utah.

Although technology in schools was nearly non-existent, Kathleen persisted and soon had several computers available to her students.

Kathleen was also a pioneer in bringing the Internet to her school and students. This was the Internet of Gopher, Veronica and Archie and a host of other applications. Kathleen quickly became an expert in this new technology and shared it with her students, teaching colleagues and a few interested educators around the state of Utah. When what what would come to be known as the World Wide Web was created Kathleen was again at the forefront. She and her students created one of the first, if not the first, school web pages. This occurred at a time when there were very few web sites.

In the early 1990s, Kathy was part of a group of visionary educators in Utah who formed the “Educational Networking Consortium.” ENC held periodic summit meetings, and with Kathy’s vision, the concept of internet connected schools in Utah was incubated and hatched. The result was a state-funded entity known as UtahLINK, which has since become the ISP for libraries, public and higher education in Utah. In these early times, when very few educators in Utah knew anything of the Internet, Kathy wrote a series of articles about using the internet in classrooms for UCET’s monthly Interface newsletter. She established herself as the pre-eminent technology-using teacher in the state. UtahLINK morphed into the Utah Education Network. Through legislative action UEN had the task of bringing Internet connectivity to all of Utah's secondary schools and to be their ISP. A good network also needed content resources and presence on the web to be successful. Kathleen left the classroom to work full time for UEN and to help educators across the state to take advantage of the World Wide Web in teaching and learning. Kathleen was instrumental in guiding numerous projects at UEN such as Heritage Gateways. In support of the Sesquicentennial Mormon Trail Wagon Trek, the Utah Education Network (UEN) was designated the official, educational web site for the Mormon Trail Re-enactment. As such, UEN, in partnership with the Utah State Office of Education, BYU Public School Partnership, Heritage Gateways Ltd., and the Mormon Trail Wagon Train - 150 Years, Inc. has created an educational, interactive online project site for students, teachers and families that followed the trek as it unfolded and continues to provide a database of historical data. Kathleen’s work at UEN impacted in some way every school, classroom, teacher and student in the state of Utah.

Kathleen moved from UEN to the Utah State Office of Education to become the Online Tools and Content Specialist. In this position she worked with state office personnel and educators around the state to better utilize technology in education. In 2007 Kathleen became the principal of the Utah Electronic High School (EHS). EHS was established in
1993 as the first virtual school in the nation. By the time Kathy became principal, EHS was in need of organization and discipline. While at UEN Kathleen had worked on creating the learning and course management system used by EHS for many years, so she was familiar with its operations. Kathleen has guided the growth of EHS for the past three years. Her goal is to have the content of this school available to students at any place, on any device.

Kathleen has been involved in guiding and using technology at the national level with her involvement with SETDA, the State Educational Technology Directors Association. She is a charter member of SETDA and she has been involved with several committees and has presented numerous times to her national colleagues.

Kathy served as an elected board member of the Utah Coalition for Educational Technology 1992-94, and as its president 2001-2002. For many years between, she helped keep the UCET web site going with a sophisticated database, for which she took no credit, and received no compensation.

Kathleen Webb is truly a pioneer of technology in education and exemplifies 21st Century education. She continues to lead, guide and share her vision of the positive impact technology can have to improve teaching and learning. Kathy is a gentle, quiet woman with a great reservoir of knowledge and understanding and an incredible drive to share what she has learned. For these many reasons, the Utah Coalition for Educational Technology (UCET) is pleased to honor Kathleen Webb with Utah’s first Making It Happen Award. Kathleen has Made it Happen for education in Utah.

Technology Educator of the Year -
James Baker

James Baker is InTech Collegiate High School’s IT administrator, only fulltime Engineering teacher, and FIRST Robotics Advisor. Three huge responsibilities with no extra pay. He is the first person at InTech in the morning and often the last one to leave at night. He spends weekends and summers here making sure all our computers are up to speed and that students know their content information and have opportunities for extracurricular actives.

James Baker gets students excited about technology. Attending yearly trainings for the nationally organized Project Lead the Way Instruction brings innovative technology to his classroom. He is a constantly attending community event such as fairs, parades, and holiday celebrations with his FIRST Robotics Team. FIRST Robotics is a national program that competes statewide. FIRST Robotics is an expensive program that can only be part of our school with sponsors from our community. James Baker is constantly participating in community outreach to find sponsors and mentors to advance the use of technology in education.

James perfectly reflects the UCET Mission by (1) creating hands-on Engineering classes and clubs and by sharing his knowledge with other schools; by (2) attending annual trainings and sharing his knowledge with our staff, students, parents, and community as well as other schools; and by (3) creating a community involved showcase with FIRST Robotics which involves businesses and mentors from our community.
Get ready for another exciting season of Utah FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL). The robotics and innovation competition drew 56 teams and 560 kids the first year it was held in Utah during 2010-2011, and even more teams are expected this season.

Team registration for the 2011-2012 season begins in May. Teams self organize and consist of 3-10 kids ages 9-14. Register a team and find more information by going to www.utfll.utah.edu or calling 801-585-3198.

**What is FIRST® LEGO® League?**

FIRST® LEGO® League is an exciting global robotics and innovation program that ignites an enthusiasm for discovery, science, teamwork and technology in kids ages 9 to 14 (16 outside of the U.S. and Canada).

Students have the opportunity to solve real-world challenges by building LEGO-based robots to complete tasks on a thematic playing surface. FLL teams, guided by their imaginations and adult coaches, discover exciting career possibilities and, through the process, learn to make positive contributions to society.

**Who participates in FLL?**

Teams self organize with 3-10 kids ages 9-14. Coaches can be parents, teachers or volunteers. Teams recruit mentors and volunteers to advise and support them.

**FIRST® LEGO® League offers**

- Discovery of the fun in science, technology, research and innovation.
- Real-world application of science, research, teamwork and math concepts.
- Hands-on problem solving.
- Programming and engineering experience.
- Innovation project presentation.
- Adult role models.
- Teamwork skills.
- Self-esteem and confidence.

**When does this all happen?**

Registration for each year begins in May. Teams compete in regional qualifiers during December/January. Winning teams advance to the Utah FLL Championship at the University of Utah at the end of January. In addition, the University of Utah hosts a FREE summer coaches workshop.

**The University of Utah’s involvement**

The University of Utah and its office of Technology Venture Development believe that innovation and the pursuit of new ideas is the cornerstone of Utah’s economic future. As a recognized leader at starting technology companies based on its research, we are uniquely aware of the power of innovation. We also believe our youth have the promise and motivation to continue this trend. The University of Utah is proud to partner with FIRST® LEGO® League to bring the FLL program to Utah and is actively engaged in bringing innovation opportunities to our community.

**What does FLL cost?**

FLL recommends that teams budget about $750 for their first year and $350-400 in following years. Money often comes from fund-raising, grants, school principals and PTAs. Travel, T-shirts and optional items are in addition to these estimates.

**2010-2011 facts**

- 17,100 teams worldwide
- 171,000 middle school students
- 50+ countries
- 111 championships
- 540+ qualifying events

**Get involved!**

No matter who you are or what you do, we have a place for you at FLL. We welcome teams, coaches, volunteers, sponsors, mentors, students and anyone else with a passion for science, innovation and — of course — LEGOs. Learn more by visiting our website at www.utfll.utah.edu or call 801-585-3198.
10 Tablets to Watch in 2011 (According to ZDNet.com)

1. Motorola XOOM
2. Apple iPad
3. HP TouchPad
4. HTC Flyer
5. Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1
6. Samsung Galaxy Tab 8.9
7. RIM PlayBook
8. Sprint View 4G
9. Asus Eee Pad
10. LG G-Slate

Amazon Announces “Cloud Drive” - Store Your Purchases in the Cloud

Amazon.com just announced a new service - Cloud Drive - that provides each Amazon customer with 5 GB of storage on their servers. Although it is especially focused on music purchases right now, other files can be stored there as well. Customers can pay for more storage (right now it’s about a dollar a gigabyte per year) as their need for storage increases. You can learn more about this service at this link. Below are answers to questions you may have, from Amazon.com...

“What is the cloud?” The cloud is a term used to describe the Internet. Amazon Cloud Drive is your hard drive in the cloud. Securely store your music, videos, photos, and documents online and access them from anywhere. All you need is a web browser to upload, download, and access your files from any computer. Back up your files to ensure that your music, photos, and personal documents are available to you wherever you go.

Who can access Cloud Player? If you are an existing Amazon customer with a valid billing address in the United States, you have access to Cloud Player. All you need to do is accept the Cloud Player Terms of Use to start using your Cloud Player account.

Who can access Cloud Drive? If you are an existing Amazon customer, you have access to 5 GB of free Cloud Drive storage. All you need to do is accept the Cloud Drive Terms of Use to start using your Cloud Drive account.

Will all of my previous Amazon MP3 purchases already be in Cloud Drive? No, but you can save all new Amazon MP3 purchases directly to Cloud Drive for free. Start with 5 GB of free Cloud Drive storage which can be used to upload your existing music library, as well as videos, documents, and other digital files.

Will I be charged for using Cloud Player or Cloud Drive? Cloud Player is a free web and Android application. All customers start with 5 GB of free Cloud Drive storage and you can upgrade to 20 GB of Cloud Drive storage with an MP3 album purchase (learn more about this offer). All new Amazon MP3 purchases saved to Cloud Drive do not count against your storage quota. Amazon also offers a variety of Cloud Drive storage plans to meet all of your data storage needs.

Can I upload music from my phone? Uploading music from your mobile device is not possible at this time, but you can upload music from your PC or Mac.

How do I know how much Cloud Drive storage I’ve used? When you are in Cloud Player, you can see how much storage you’ve used by looking at the top left corner of the player screen under the Upload to your Cloud Drive button.

I saved music to Cloud Drive but I wanted to download it. What do I do? You can still download your music to your computer or Android device. From Amazon Cloud Player, select the music you want to download using the check boxes. Next, click the Download button in the upper right of Cloud Player. This will open the Downloader and download music from Cloud Drive to your device. If you have the Downloader set to import your music to iTunes or Windows Media Player, it will automatically be added to your music library there.

You can download Cloud Drive music to your Android device by tapping the green downward arrow located in the upper right corner of each album, artist, or playlist page. You can also long-press any song, album, artist, or playlist and select the download option. Once your music is downloaded, you can find it in your on-device library in Cloud Player.”

April Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>April Fool’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Apple Computer Founded 1976</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Easter</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>Human Genome Project completed</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>San Francisco Earthquake 1906</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>Earth Day</td>
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<td>April 23</td>
<td>1st public showing of a motion picture in the U.S., 1896</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>NASA launched Hubble Space Telescope (1990)</td>
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<td>April 30</td>
<td>1st public TV broadcast - 1939</td>
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Website and Curriculum Resources...

Curriki - K12 Open Curricula Community

Link:  http://www.curriki.com/

From their website: “Curriki is more than your average website; we’re a community of educators, learners and committed education experts who are working together to create quality materials that will benefit teachers and students around the world.

Curriki is an online environment created to support the development and free distribution of world-class educational materials to anyone who needs them. Our name is a play on the combination of ‘curriculum’ and ‘wiki’ which is the technology we’re using to make education universally accessible.

Curriki is built on the XWiki platform, an open source development platform and “Next Generation Wiki” application developed in Java and released the LGPL open source license.

Curriki is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.”

eSchoolNews listed this site as one of their top ten favorites.

FREE - Federal Resources for Educational Excellence

Link:  http://free.ed.gov/

Free is a federal resource offered by the U.S. Department of Education. It is basically a link farm to myriads of free teacher resources available from dozens of federal agencies. Links at the top of the page link you to resources with animations, primary documents, photos, and videos. You can search the site, or browse by topic. Educators can also sign up for an RSS feed that will alert them any time new resources are added.

Library of Congress for Teachers

Link:  http://www.loc.gov/teachers/

The Library of Congress wants to bring the power of primary sources into the classroom with this special section of their website.


There are ready-to-use classroom materials that bring the Library’s primary sources into the classroom.

Get updates on new teacher tools, professional development opportunities, and Library programs, events and services of special interest to educators.

You can subscribe via e-mail or RSS. There is a wealth of resources. I would encourage you to explore through them.

Academic Earth - Online Courses From the World’s Top Scholars

Link:  http://academicearth.org/

Listed as one of Time magazine’s fifty best websites for 2009, Academic Earth offers video lectures from elite universities. It also allows viewers to grade the lecturers. You can view the videos by subject, university, or instructor.

TechCrunch said of the site, “Bill Gates has released his second annual letter from the Bill And Melinda Gates Foundation, and he has highlighted a tech startup that he finds particularly compelling, Academic Earth. We’ve written about the online video education site, which is sort of like a Hulu For Education. The startup provides a user-friendly platform for educational video that offers courses and lectures from Yale, MIT, Harvard, Stanford, UC Berkeley, Princeton and others.”
**The National Science Digital Library**

Link: http://www.nsdl.org/

NSDL is the Nation’s online library for education and research in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics.

NSDL advances teaching and learning by providing:

- High quality, interactive resources that help educators bring cutting-edge, real-world science and math into their classrooms and stimulate excitement for science in today’s digital learners
- Web-based applications that help teachers and learners to optimize their experiences with digital content
- Professional learning opportunities for college faculty, K12 teachers, and other science educators
- Software tools and services to help school districts, museums, educational non-profits and other digital learning enterprises to organize, manage, and disseminate digital educational content
- Research-based findings and best practices on teaching and learning with digital content
- Partnerships with STEM stakeholder groups, organizations, and coalitions that promote the dissemination of educational technology use and digital content expertise

**PBS Teachers**

Link: http://www.pbs.org/teachers/

PBS offers online professional development, lesson plans, educational community connections, TV programming, videos, audio, and other multimedia just for teachers. You can participate in educational webinars, listen to news, and more!

**Teachers’ Domain - Digital Media for the Classroom and Professional Development**

Link: http://www.teachersdomain.org/

Teachers’ Domain is a free digital media service for educational use from public broadcasting and its partners. You’ll find thousands of media resources, support materials, and tools for classroom lessons, individualized learning programs, and teacher professional learning communities.

Teachers’ Domain features media from NOVA, Nature, NOVA Science Now, Cyberchase, Between the Lions, Frontline, Wide Angle, American Experience, and Religion and Ethics - among others.

The professional development section will be of particular interest to teachers. Divided into two major sections, the professional development includes online courses and Teaching Strategies. For example, the online courses include things such as assessing and building understanding for teachers of physical science, heredity and adaptation, teaching about evolution, and many more. The strategies section includes things like effective video-based lessons, creating user generated media, 21st century schools - learning in the digital age, and more.

This site was listed in eSchoolnews’ top ten sites for teachers. Media falls within the following categories: arts, English language arts, math, science, and social studies. This is a site you’ll want to spend some time exploring.
TeAch-nology.com

Link: http://www.teach-nology.com/

From their website: “For over a decade, TeAchnology has been providing free and easy to use resources for teachers dedicated to improving the education of today’s generation of students. We feature 42,000+ lesson plans, 9,000 free printable worksheets, rubrics, teaching tips, worksheet makers, web quests, math worksheets, and thousands of other great teacher resources. We are the online teacher resource that is designed to help busy Kindergarten through High School teachers.”

Verizon Thinkfinity

Link: http://www.thinkfinity.org

We’ve mentioned this site before in our newsletters, but it’s worthy of mentioning again. From their website:

“We've mentioned Thinkfinity partners with the most trusted names in education to bring you teaching and learning materials, as well as a community excited about education, just like you are.

The Benefits of Verizon Thinkfinity

Quick and easy access to the highest-quality teaching and learning materials: Verizon Thinkfinity offers comprehensive teaching and learning resources created by our content partners – the most respected organizations in each academic subject and literacy. The easy-to-navigate K-12 resources are grade-specific and are aligned with state standards.

Sharing resources and ideas in our online community: Become a member of our free online community, and you’ll find all the tools you need to organize your resources, network with friends and other teachers, and share ideas, plans and advice with others in the education community. Take a tour to learn more, or join now.

At-home activities for students and parents: Families and kids of all ages will also find excellent resources for practice, play, projects and reports on thinkfinity.org. Search for a specific topic, or choose from recommended activities, maps, games, reading lists and homework help.

Professional development training: Verizon Thinkfinity’s free, award-winning professional development program shows educators how to use thinkfinity.org to enhance their effectiveness, engage learners and improve student achievement. Online and face-to-face training options are available and can be readily adapted to meet state and local needs.

Content Criteria

All Verizon Thinkfinity content meets the following rigorous criteria, setting us apart from any other content provider.

Seal of approval: All Verizon Thinkfinity content is endorsed by our content partners, the nation’s leading education organizations, who either develop or review each resource. Each of these organizations is a recognized leader in the specific discipline for which they create Thinkfinity content.

Expert review: Each content partner has a thorough review process in place, so you can be sure that you will find content that is accurate, up-to-date, unbiased and appropriate for students. Review panels include Nobel laureates, classroom educators and leading content experts in each discipline.

Standards-based: In addition to the national standards alignment, our State Partnerships also ensure that Verizon Thinkfinity lessons are aligned with state-specific standards.

Classroom-ready: Classroom-ready lesson plans and other online learning materials make it easy to integrate Verizon Thinkfinity into your classroom. From the primary source documents you can print for each student to the interactive games students can play in pairs or individually, the resources are rich and varied to meet your teaching style and needs.”
Microsoft Math 4.0 is now a free download!

Link: http://www.microsoft.com/education/teachers/guides/mathematics_4.0.aspx

Microsoft recently released its Math 4.0 as a free product. Microsoft Mathematics provides a set of mathematical tools that help students get school work done quickly and easily. With Microsoft Mathematics, students can learn to solve equations step-by-step while gaining a better understanding of fundamental concepts in pre-algebra, algebra, trigonometry, physics, chemistry, and calculus.

Microsoft Mathematics includes a full-featured graphing calculator that’s designed to work just like a handheld calculator. Additional math tools help you evaluate triangles, convert from one system of units to another, and solve systems of equations.

At the site, you can watch a video introduction to the product, download the software, download the Microsoft Mathematics 4.0 in the classroom guide, download the Microsoft Mathematics 4.0 Teacher Guide, as well as step-by-step instruction guide.

With the Microsoft Mathematics 4.0 free download, you get:

- A full-featured graphing calculator
- The Formulas and Equations Library
- The Triangle Solver
- The Unit Conversion tool
- Ink handwriting support

System Requirements

- Supported Operating Systems: Windows 7; Windows Server 2003 Service Pack 2; Windows Server 2008 R2; Windows Server 2008 Service Pack 2; Windows Vista Service Pack 2; Windows XP Service Pack 3
- .NET Framework: Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5 SP1 Free download
- Computer processor: 500 MHz Pentium processor or equivalent (minimum); 1 GHz Pentium processor or equivalent (recommended)
- Memory: 256 MB of RAM (minimum); 512 MB or more (recommended)
- Display resolution: 800 x 600, 256 colors (minimum); 1024 x 768, 32-bit (recommended)
- Video card: with 64 MB of video RAM
- Disk space: 65 MB available disk space
New! - Google Realtime Search

Link: http://www.google.com/realtime

Realtime Search lets you see up-to-the-second social updates, news articles and blog posts about hot topics around the world. You get results directly on the new Realtime homepage. Then, you can refine the search and pinpoint results by location, time, and more. Furthermore, you can see entire conversations, and read full threads of conversations to get context about any topic.

If you’re needing fresh, up-to-the minute news, Realtime search from Google may be just what you’re looking for.

Wunderlist

by Huck Stewart, Utah State University

Wunderlist is a free task manager created by a new developing company called 6Wunderkinder based out of Germany. The idea is simple and “wunderful.” They created a program that is able to run on the iPad, iPhone, Android, Mac, and PC. It is a program that allows you to make as many lists as you want. The information is not saved on the hard drive of your computer or device rather it stores in a “cloud” style database that is retrieved from any computer or device with Internet connections.

Some of the features that I looked at included automatic reminders sent (through pop-up box reminders and e-mails), multiple color schemes, and a share feature which can be shared using the same user account or through e-mails. Each task you create can be categorized in a group that you organized it into. Every task is also customizable, which means you can give it a specific deadline (time and date), prioritize it, and create sub-to-do-lists within each task.

Of course this program would only work as long as you had access to internet connections. I did, however, try it out on my own iPod touch device by first; disconnecting the Wi-Fi from my iPod and second; opening the Wunderlist application. Even without the internet connection I was able to view all tasks and lists that I had put on previous to the disconnection. I then added a few tasks to a list while still disconnected and (of course it did not show up on my Wunderlist account at the computer I was next to) but when I re-connected Wunderlist updated itself and the new tasks showed up on my account on the computer.

If you are using this program on your computer now download is necessary, you just go to the Wunderlist website and log in using a unique username and password you created for your own account. If you were to use it on a mobile device or tablet you would download the free application.

It is easy to figure out and free to use. When asked by a fan if and when Wunderlist will begin to charge for this great service on their Facebook page they replied; “nope, Wunderlist as it is right now will stay free.” My favorite thing about Wunderlist is using my finger to check off tasks and homework assignments and then swiping to the right to delete them! It is a great feeling!

To check out their homepage and find out more please visit:

Link: http://www.6wunderkinder.com/wunderlist/

From this site you can create your own Wunderlist account or to download the apps click on the appropriate links from this same page.
Do you ever feel like when you or your students step into your school you are literally disconnected from thousands of resources that would be available in any other real life setting? The issue with online resources is that you never really know who is behind the computer at the other end. Instead of trying to filter out all the bad resources and allow all the good ones some school districts, to be safe, simply block everything.

Edmodo comes in for precisely this reason. Edmodo is a real time social networking/recourse distribution and sharing web page specifically for teachers and students. It is the “facebook” for educators and students.

It works like many other social networking sites except there are a lot more regulations and rules. A teacher begins by creating her or his own free Edmodo account. From that point it is up to you to decide how you want to use Edmodo. You can create a page just for your own classroom. Each class can be given a username and password by you. They can join when you invite them to join. Parents can also get a special user name and password that provides them with viewing access and teacher-to-parent interaction capabilities. Through this page you can post extra links, lecture notes from class, homework, and even a classroom events calendar with syllabus and deadlines. Edmodo can be accessed through mobile devices (iPod touch, Android or other web browsing mobile devices), which makes it easy for a student to stay caught up if they are absent. The real time upload capabilities makes it very easy for you to respond to students who have a question or need a file they are missing at that very moment.

Aside from student to teacher interaction, Edmodo is a great place to collect and collaborate ideas, lesson plans, and recourses. I decided to browse Edmodo to find out what other teachers are doing for math, which is my major. One hour later, after visiting link after link and viewing shared lesson plans; I discovered for myself the value of Edmodo. There were posts of teachers looking to set up a video chat with class rooms from other parts of the country and with schools throughout the world. If your school or district did not allow you to use Edmodo for file sharing to your students, you could still benefit from this web site by being able to share and receive from teachers who are teaching the same exact thing as you.

The only real problem with Edmodo is making the assumption that all students have access to computer or pocket devices at home. We all know there is a large population of students who just don’t have that kind of access. There are even some schools out there that don’t get the same amount of funding per student, which would make comput ers in the classroom scarce as well. These are the problems that many people face. Be that as it may, using Edmodo even for a small amount in your classroom will surely benefit both you and your students.

It is fun and easy to use and the support help is quick and friendly. The community that Edmodo creates is generous and happy to help. And the best part about this whole thing; It’s Free!
SchoolStream - Comprehensive and Integrated administrative cloud technology to help districts relieve budget pressure

SchoolStream recently released its Premier Platform, which consolidates and integrates administrative cloud solutions. SchoolStream has developed the Premier Platform as a desktop and mobile solution, which provides school districts a more affordable and comprehensive administrative software solution.

The Premier Platform is designed to expand on the idea of single services by creating an environment in which previously stand-alone applications now work together to create business processes. These contributing services include:

- Job applicant manager
- Online forms
- Website publisher
- Active directory sync agent
- Calendars
- E-payment system
- Staff directory
- Report card
- Bid manager

Upcoming 2011 releases:

- Notification center
- District file management
- Advanced business intelligence
- New routing service
- WYSIWYG forms building tools
- Graphical reporting

Users are able to access SchoolStream as long as they are able to log on to the internet using either a PC or mobile device. All services are integrated through a shared database. SchoolStream allows districts to customize their own business processes and integrate with existing software.

The Premier Platform provides users a single login to all district services by using a common web-based ‘My Desktop’. Users navigate into specific services through predefined business processes based on district assigned authorities. This concept breaks the boundaries between single stand alone applications and is a truly integrated solution. Districts consolidate all business software using a common interface. In turn, districts enhance efficiency and collaboration of their daily administrative operations.

About SchoolStream

SchoolStream, founded in 2001, is focused on saving school districts time, labor, material, and enhancing collaboration. It accomplishes this by developing software solutions targeted at addressing the everyday administrative needs of the K-12 industry. The Premier Platform, which has an 89% E-Rate, is a solution that continues to evolve the idea of online administrative applications. Districts in over 30 states are currently benefitting from SchoolStream solutions by integrating and consolidating all administrative operations into a common desktop and mobile platform. The Platform solution enables administrators to streamline business processes, teachers to expand their classrooms, and parents/students to stay connected to the district.

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Free Play Music - Stock Music & Sound Effects Free for Student Use

by Huck Stewart, Utah State University

For students and teachers who like to make movies or short clips as a hobby, freeplaymusic.com might be a great website for you to check out. Free Pay Music (FPM) is a public access website devoted to making personal use of music and sound effects free and commercial use affordable. This web page has collected thousands of sound effects and professional sounding background music and has organized all of them into style, length, or just feeling of the songs. Nearly every song on the page is free. When downloaded they can be played in iTunes as an mp3 format and can be used in any video editing program.

FPM offers a huge variety of music for that specific scene in your movie in progress. The music is all unique with a large assortment of artists and most of it is very new. The selection from FPM is especially great because if you like to make movies, you are always struggling to find professional sounding music and most of the open source music is the same old stuff you have already heard for years. The new sounds that are provided through FPM is a refreshing change from your personal play list or the classical open source songs that everybody else uses.

How a personal license works is roughly like this: If you use any of Free Play’s Music you concur to follow through with their licensing agreement. If you plan on using the music to play for a general public audience for promotion of a product or organization or basically if you use it at all to make money you would need to by a license to use their music. What works out is that for students or teachers who just want to do a school project for class or for fun, they don’t have to pay anything. The best idea before using this site would be to check out their terms of agreement page before letting your students know about it. You can find a detailed description of nearly all terms of agreement here: http://freeplaymusic.com/licensing/termsofuse.php and they are quick to answer any specific questions you may have about particular situations through their contact information.

Be sure to read the usage license before using any of the Free Play Music - make sure you stay within the usage rights.

Link: http://freeplaymusic.com/
Google Apps For Education

Link: http://www.google.com/a/edu

From Google's Site: “Google Apps for Education offers a free (and ad-free) set of customizable tools that enable faculty, staff and students to work together and learn more effectively. Google Apps Education Edition arises from our belief that any academic institution – from a neighborhood school to an international university – can become a more effective learning community through one common access point. With Google Apps, you can offer your school free integrated solutions for email, calendaring, and online document and site sharing. Your students and staff will love you for it.

Available Applications

- Gmail – With 7GB of storage, built-in chat, innovative search, and IMAP capability, students no longer need to worry about email quotas or spam.
- Google Talk – Keep students in contact even when they're not on campus, with instant messaging, file transfers, and voice calling over the web.
- Google Calendar – Google Calendar makes it easy to organize schedules and share calendars with others.
- Google Docs – Enable students to collaborate real time on documents, spreadsheets, and presentations, across campus or around the world.
- Google Sites – Google Sites makes it easy to share all types of information, without any technical language to learn and access from anywhere.
- Google Video – Securely and privately share videos with your school’s faculty and students. (10GB free)
- Extensibility APIs – Easily integrate with your school’s current systems or other third party solutions.
- Help and support – 24/7 online and phone support assistance available.

Quick Facts

Free for educational institutions - You don’t have to buy anything to use Google Apps Education Edition – no hardware, no software, and no consulting.

Strict privacy policy - Google Apps will always treat your users’ personal information with the utmost care and security. Visit www.google.com/privacy to learn more.

Message Security and Discovery - Protect your school by archiving faculty email and enabling extra security settings such as email content filtering. Available as an add-on to Apps Education with a 66% discount.

Easy integration with existing systems - Open standards and APIs make it easy to integrate Google Apps with existing systems, simplifying user administration and keeping costs low.

Broad language and platform support - Our applications like Gmail are available in 40 languages and support multiple browsers and operating systems.
vusafe - Safely Search and View YouTube Videos

Link: [http://www.m86vusafe.com/](http://www.m86vusafe.com/)

Now an essential online medium, video is a useful way for teachers to supplement classroom learning and engage students in content they can’t access on field trips or through books alone. However, finding and sharing videos can be a challenge due to safety and compliance concerns. That’s why M86 Security created VuSafe—the secure, simple way to share Internet videos.

Through VuSafe, teachers can easily manage and share approved videos and other streaming content, while safeguarding students from inappropriate advertising, comments, links and other content present on sites such as YouTube.

VuSafe is easy for everyone

**School Administrators** - The designated administrator can set up VuSafe for a school and easily invite teachers to use the site. Additionally, the administrator receives automatic notifications to approve newly-posted videos as well as online reports that detail video statistics.

VuSafe makes it easy for school administrators to:

- Enforce Internet Acceptable Use Policies by protecting students from inappropriate content
- Maintain compliance with education-based regulations such as CIPA, COPPA and FERPA
- Manage and administer a secure video site quickly (no hardware or software to install)
- Benefit from built-in policies for video submission, approval and viewing
- Allow the use of iPads and other Flash-restricted devices (supports HTML 5)

**Teachers** - Teachers are able to search for relevant videos and post them to their own VuSafe libraries. From there, they simply assign categories such as age range, teacher and subject; then share approved videos with their students.

VuSafe makes it easy for teachers to:

- Engage their students through the use of educational videos
- Supplement learning material at no cost
- Ensure students remain on task by eliminating distracting peripheral content
- Connect with other teachers through the VuSafe Community, where they can find and add videos used in other classrooms

**Students** - Students log in to VuSafe using a teacher-assigned password and watch videos directly within a secure online environment.

VuSafe makes it easy for students to:

- Find teacher-assigned videos quickly by category or keyword
- Watch approved videos without being exposed to inappropriate or harmful content
- Access approved videos inside and outside of the classroom safely

VuSafe is a complementary service available to all K-12 educational institutions. However, schools that use VuSafe with the M86 Web Filter or M86 Secure Web Gateway receive an added benefit. These solutions enable IT administrators to block direct access to YouTube, while still allowing full use of VuSafe.

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**Common Sense Educational Programs**

Link: [http://www.commonsensemedia.org/educators](http://www.commonsensemedia.org/educators)

Today’s kids connect, create, and collaborate through media. But who helps them reflect on the implications of their actions? Who empowers them to make responsible, respectful, and safe choices about how they use the powerful digital tools at their command? Our Common Sense Parent Media Education Program and our Digital Citizenship Curriculum give educators, administrators, and parents the tools and curricula they need to guide a generation in becoming responsible digital citizens.
Did You Know These iPad/iPhone Tips and Tricks?

When typing, I need a special character: On the iPad keyboard, press and continue holding down the letter key that corresponds to the special character you’re looking for. A pop-up set of special characters will appear. Slide your finger to the one you want and let go. This trick works with the e, y, n, o, l, s, a, z, c, n, comma, and question mark keys. (See the top illustration at the right...)

Do you need a quick apostrophe? Here’s an iPad only tip. Press and continue holding the comma key. When the apostrophe option appears, just let go and you’ll have an apostrophe entered.

Did you know that double-tapping the spacebar will give you a period for the end of the sentence? If you need a quick number (or symbol) you can press numbers key, then slide your finger to the number or symbol you want to select and let go. That number will be entered and you will immediately be taken back to the QWERTY keys.

Would you like to change your email signature to something besides “Sent from my iPad”? Go to the Settings on your device, then choose “Mail, Contacts, Calendars.” Scroll down the options until you see “Signature.” Tap on that, and change the signature to whatever you want. Be aware that this signature will be used on all emails - no matter what account they are attached to. (See center image at right.)

Double click the Home button to see what apps are running in memory. Low on memory? Press and hold any of those apps to enter “jiggly” mode, then you can quit each app shown at the bottom of the screen by pressing the “x” in its icon’s corner.

Triple click the Home button to turn on or off any accessibility features you’ve enabled in Settings - General - Accessibility, such as voiceover, white-on-black, zoom, or ask. (See image at bottom right...) I turned on ask, so when I triple click the home button, I can choose which accessibility feature I want to use at the moment. To move around in zoom mode, use three fingers to slide around the screen.
Welcome to OOo4Kids project!

The idea is to provide a 7-12 years software package based on OpenOffice.org source code, extremely simplified and free! Teachers, trainers, and other educators helped design OOo4Kids. This office suite has only four modules: Writer for word processing, Calc for spreadsheet work, Impress for doing presentations, and Draw for drawing diagrams, charts, and such. The software is available in 13 languages, and for Windows (and Windows portable), Macintosh (both intel and PowerPC), and Linux (both 32 bit and 64 bit versions).

It is easily installed. Windows has an MSI installer file. Macintosh is a disk image (dmg file). And there is an installer script for Debian and Ubuntu Linux.

The interface has been especially adapted for children: new icons, bright colors, and a big cursor. There is a new start center, with tool tips. User preferences have been simplified, with fewer entries, lighter organization, and it is password protected. The default password is “prof” - and this feature will protect the application from unwanted modifications.

Three user levels have been programmed into OpenOffice for Kids: Beginner (7-9 years old), Medium (10-11 years old), and Expert (11 years and older). The toolbars, menus, and formula editor show only options relating to the level you've chosen.

In the modules, there have been some thinking into the look and feel. The toolbars are less cluttered and easier for children to use. The color palettes have been rethought. Fonts especially for children have been included. There is even a font designed for dyslexic individuals. In the spreadsheet module, functions are automatically adapted to the user level, and there are fewer rows and columns.

OOo4Kids was developed by volunteers of the association:

Link: http://www.educoo.org

OpenOffice for Kids is still a work in progress, and has just begun community online. EducOOo is a french non profit association, and its activities concern Education and OpenOffice.org.

Personally, I think the idea of a child's version of an office suite is a good one - one that will allow a child to begin to learn the product, and familiarize them with the various levels of the interface as they gain skills. I would encourage you to give this a try. As I've played with it, it has been stable and worked well. In some ways, I enjoy the simplicity of it myself, although I find myself missing some of the toolbar icons I access in the full version of OpenOffice.

The Classroom in the Clouds blog said of OOo4Kids: “Like all things open source, OpenOffice for Kids can be configured to your liking, and will surely improve as a community of users grow around it. And hey - if it’s another advantage to adopting OpenOffice over Microsoft Office (since there is no student-friendly flavor), then I’m all for OOo4Kids.”
Macintosh’s Preview App - Tips and Tricks

By Kateri Vernon, Utah State University

If you’ve got PDFs to read, or images to view, and you’re a Mac user the Preview program can make it easy for you. Although this program may sound complicated in what it has to offer, it is actually quite simple and user friendly. Preview is a built-in PDF file viewer that allows you to view, work with, and print PDF files. This program can also view and edit images including image file formats such as JPEG, TIFF, GIF, PICT, etc.

Once you’ve opened your PDF file using the preview application there are some wonderful things you can do to your PDF files including:

• Merging certain PDF documents
• Deleting or adding pages to your PDF
• Viewing multiple pages of the PDF file

Not only does the Preview program help with editing PDF files it can also do some great things with images such as:

• Enlarge or downsize the image file
• Change different contrast of color within the image
• Add text to image
• Change color and font of text
• Choose in what ways you would like the text to be organized on the image such as triangle, rectangle, oval
• Edit scan images or images straight from your camera

Preview is a program that may not be familiar to most but can save a lot of time when editing PDF files and images. The best part about it is all of the options it offers and the simplicity of the program’s tools. The selector options are straightforward and can easily be found.

These are steps to help you in knowing how to edit your images.

1. Select the specific image you choose to edit, usually the images will automatically open with the preview program but if not simply click on the image and select open with and choose the preview program.

2. After selecting the image use the tools options on the tool bar to critique your image. You may first want to crop the image to show only what you desire. To do this you simple select the select tool option, use the cross to select your area and then select crop.

3. You may select in which arrangement you would like text on your photo by choosing the annotate option in the tools menu. Here you will find your possible options.

4. After selecting your text arrangement you can adjust the color, font and size of text to fit your liking in the tool menu. The select options are fairly self-explanatory. Click the show fonts option in the tool menu and you will see your many options for not only text size, and font type but also your particular text color.

5. After adjusting the text to your liking you may decide you want to change the contrast in the actual color of your photo. This is simple, choose the adjust color option in the tool menu to tweak the coloring in the image to your preference.
UCET 2011 Grant Winners Announced!

This year UCET received 34 UCET grant proposals. We were able to fund 4 of them. Congratulations to this year’s grant recipients:

**Stephanie Hamilton**  
TITLE: Our Library Nook - The Future of the Book  
AMT: $1,494  
SCHOOL: Bennion Jr. High  
DISTRICT: Granite School District

**Justin Vance**  
TITLE: If iHad an iPad  
AMT: $728  
SCHOOL: Canyon View Jr High  
DISTRICT: Alpine District

**Kjersten Troxel**  
AMT: $1200  
TITLE: Flipping Presentations  
SCHOOL: Rose Creek Elementary  
DISTRICT: Jordan District

**Laura Eliason**  
AMT: $1,500  
TITLE: Quest for 21st Century Learning  
SCHOOL: JA Taylor Elementary  
DISTRICT: Davis School District

We look forward to hearing about your experience at next year’s UCET, which will be held on March 2 & 3, 2012 at Jordan High School.

UEN Summer Professional Development Courses Available May 1st

April 20 - Priority Registration for Summer Courses: Premium educators can register for UEN’s summer courses early.

The UEN Professional Development Summer Schedule is available May 1st, however this year we are opening Priority Registration on April 20th to Premium Educators.

Who is a “premium” educator? Premium educators have registered with my.uen using their Utah education email address.

Learn more about UEN’s Premium Services.  
UEN’s Professional Development Schedule.
2011 Safety Scholars Contest Kicks Off

Link: http://www.safetyscholars.com/

The fifth annual Bridgestone Safety Scholars Video Contest has begun, and YOU could be one of this year’s $5,000 scholarship winners! This year, we’ve expanded our contest to include all drivers ages 16-21 in the United States and Canada (excluding Quebec).

To enter, simply create a 25- or 55-second video about driver safety and upload it to their site by May 13. They’ll narrow it down, and the top 10 videos will be posted on the site, where it is up to the public to vote on their favorite. The top three winners all receive a $5,000 scholarship!

*Canadian winners will receive a $5,000 cash prize.

Grant - 100 Best Communities for Young People

Link: http://americaspromise.org/100best

Apply Now for the 2011 Competition!

Is your community one of the nation’s best places for kids?

Does your community make youth its number one priority?

Is your community dedicated to improving life for young people, and working to end the national high school dropout crisis?

If so, America’s Promise Alliance and ING want to know about it!

Learn why you should apply to be one of the 100 Best! Tell them about the programs, services, policies, and collaborative efforts that make your community an outstanding place to live, learn and grow by applying for the 2011 100 Best Communities for Young People presented by ING.

All 2011 winning communities will receive a grant of $2,500.

Begin the application process today by completing the short program registration. Registration is the first step toward applying for recognition, and will allow you to access the full application.

The final application deadline is May 27, 2011, but early submissions received by May 4 will be eligible for two special awards:

- one $2,500 grant recognizing an outstanding local dropout prevention program; and
- one $2,500 scholarship to the author of the youth testimonial that best captures the spirit of the 100 Best Communities program.

For additional information about the application process, including a step-by-step guide, please download their FAQs document.

What is the 100 Best Communities Competition?

The 100 Best Communities for Young People presented by ING is an annual competition, now in its fifth cycle, that rewards and recognizes communities making extraordinary efforts to reduce dropout rates and provide outstanding services and supports to their youth. These communities, while not without their own challenges to overcome, have demonstrated a significant and lasting commitment to their youth for which they deserve to be recognized and commended.

The 100 Best Communities are intended to be representative of the nation as a whole. Each year, the winners vary dramatically in size, location, demographics, resources, and approaches to their unique challenges. Past winners have ranged from small towns, such as a mobile home community in Minnesota; to some of the nation’s largest cities, including New York City, Chicago and Houston; to counties and school districts.

We encourage all communities who are dedicated to making youth a priority and ensuring that all youth have access to outstanding education and support services to apply for this recognition. Their decision is not based on a community’s wealth or resources, and no specific approach to addressing the dropout crisis is given preference. Every application is assessed by America’s Promise Alliance staff and the winners are chosen from a group of finalists by a blue-ribbon panel of national leaders on youth issues.
Online Resources...

Student Suggested Educational Websites

by Wendy Johnson, Utah State University

Ask the Space Scientist

http://image.gsfc.nasa.gov/poetry/ask/askmag.html

This is a neat website that will allow students to ask an expert astronomy questions and to view archives of previously asked questions about the moon, sun, earth, solar system, galaxy and anything else they can imagine.

HubbleSite

http://hubblesite.org/

This website will allow students to see pictures of deep space from the Hubble telescope. It also has videos about the night sky and will tell you anything you want to know about the stars and other galaxies. Students can also learn when and where the planets can be seen in the night sky.

The Teachers Guide Lesson Plans

http://www.theteachersguide.com/lessonplans.html

I’ve used this website several times when I was teaching a kids camp. It’s a very useful website for teachers. It has pre-made lesson plans that you can add your own twist too. There are some really good ideas on how to present different materials and thousands of ideas on every subject.

Free Math Worksheets

http://www.math-worksheet.org/

Here is a great site that has hundreds of worksheets to help students understand math concepts in a fun way.

A Kid’s Heart

http://akidshart.com/

Need some time to help the children wind down? This website offers free printable games, clip art, photos coloring pages, awards, and other goodies. This website provides resources for PreSchool, Math, Animals, Ocean, Shapes, Colors, and the Alphabet. There are also worksheets for handwriting, and a Math worksheet generator. This website also provides ideas on how to brighten up your room and make it more inviting to children.

Eric Whitacre - Virtual Choirs 1.0 and 2.0

A wonderful and innovative idea came to fruition with the release of the virtual choir 2.0 video. Eric Whitacre, a popular classical composer and conductor, invited people around the world to sing the various parts of one of his compositions and submit them by YouTube. These were edited and synched together to create a virtual choir performance featuring 2052 voices from all over the world.

To listen to Eric tell the fascinating story behind this effort, watch the TED Talk...

http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/eric_whitacre_a_virtual_choir_2_000_voices_strong.html

I was emotionally moved watching the Choir 1.0 and 2.0 performances. You can view them here...

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7o7BrlbaDs
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WhWDCw3Mng
Yenka Technology
A complete simulator for electronic design. It covers...

- Electronics — design and simulate circuits using over 150 types of component, testing and refining your design as you work.
- PCB design — convert your circuits into 3D PCB simulations, whose layouts can be exported for manufacture.
- PIC programming — program simulated PIC or PICAXE chips using simple flowcharts, before exporting to chips.
- Mechanisms — experiment with a range of mechanical inputs and outputs, in full 3D.

Yenka Science
A range of virtual labs that let you simulate physics and chemistry experiments safely and easily.

- Electricity and Magnetism - simulate power generation and transmission, and analogue electrical circuits.
- Light and Sound - experiment with sound, water and light waves, and ray diagrams.
- Force and Motion - investigate projectiles, oscillations, gravity and motion.
- Electrochemistry - experiment with electrolysis, using a range of electrodes and solutions.
- Inorganic & physical chemistry - simulate reactions safely and easily with over 100 chemicals.

Yenka Computing
Innovative tools to introduce programming: control animated characters using flowchart programs, and learn about loops, functions and variables.

Other free applications through crocodile clips:
- We’ve just launched a new website, Sumdog (http://www.sumdog.com/) with free math games designed to improve your numeracy. You can use them at home or in school.
- There are over 1400 free resources from our interactive Absorb courses available for you to use online:

Free Absorb resources
Note: Yenka is a British based program and will focus more on metric measurements, uses different spellings of words and a few different terms your students may be unfamiliar with.

Licensed materials:
Coming up with new and intriguing ideas to keep students interested can be difficult. Many teachers and educators are looking for ways to introduce life-long skills to their students. The Futures Channel is an engaging website that provides excellent resources, with hundreds of career video clips that can be shared in a classroom.

The Futures Channel reaches out to students and allows them to see career choices are out there. It also provides great insights for educators by providing worksheets and activities that tie directly into the school curriculum.

The goal of The Futures Channel is to help students see how broad the many career choices are. It provides additional information for “the educators who prepare them, the parents who encourage, professionals who inspire, and the industries that hire” (TFC). This website provides an opportunity for teachers to show students what’s out there, to help inspire them to seek after their own goals and desires.

Understanding how certain subjects in school are relevant to real life can be hard for students. Many times they wonder “When am I ever going to use this?”. The Futures Channel is full of real-world documentaries about real careers and how those different subjects apply in school. From the videos students are able to see that there are many diverse aspects of any career field they want to explore. For example, students who love animals are able to see how math can help animals. These videos help students to make those connections and to find where their interests really lie.

Teachers have commented,

“Your excellent videos are an integral part of my “How the World Works” curriculum which is ideal for my urban students.”

“My middle school students were totally engaged by "The Rhythm Track" video! We did the "Cowbell Concerts" activity - great math connections to our unit on Rate and Ratio, as well as an excellent tie-in to radius. We will keep the cans and use them for geometry concepts. Thank you, thank you, thank you!”

“Showing real life science skills application helps students and teachers to remember why we are doing all this!!!”

This is a site every educator should have a look at. I think you’ll enjoy The Futures Channel.
Inserting Equations into Microsoft Word

by Bridger Burt, Utah State University

Ever wondered how to enter a simple equation into Microsoft Word? Well, with the latest versions of Word it’s a piece of cake. I’ll take you through a few steps to create your own equation:

Open a new or existing Word document.

Click where you would like the equation inserted.

From the “Insert Menu,” click on “Equation”

This will place an edit box within your document.

Depending on what you want, you can either just enter the equation here, or, if it involves more complex aspects, such as fractions, there are a few more tricks you can use.

4. Given the following equation, solve for x:

\[36 = 2x + b\]

You can use “Structures” to input more complicated parts of your formula. The toolbar for this automatically appears when you edit an equation. It is located under the menu bar.

Just simply click where you want the structure inserted.

Choose the type of structure you wish to insert. For this example we will use a fraction. If you were to use a power, such as \[ x^n \], you would choose the script structure, and so on.

Editing a structure is easy. To edit a specific part, click on the mini text box and Word will highlight that part.

Go ahead and type in that part of the equation and continue until your equation is complete.

5. Using a piece of graph paper, plot the following equation:

\[ y = \frac{2x-4}{3x^2+6} \]

There are other things that Word is able to do with equations, but hopefully this will get you started. This is a powerful tool that can be used with math and other areas of study.

Any Video Converter 3.22 (Windows)


Any Video Converter is an all-in-one video converting freeware with easy-to-use graphical interface, fast converting speed, and excellent video quality. It can convert almost all video formats including DivX, XviD, MOV, RM, RMVB, MPEG, VOB, DVD, WMV, and AVI to MPEG-4 movie format for PSP or other portable video device, MP4 player, or smartphones. It is the freeware to convert video files between multiple formats and download YouTube videos.
**Mobile Devices...**

**Cardcloud - (iOS-Free) - Get Rid of Paper Business Cards**


Cardcloud on your iPhone allows you to share online, social business cards with anyone through 3 taps of your finger. Share cards from iPhone to iPhone, or directly to an e-mail address.

With Cardcloud, you’ll be able to connect with anyone and you’ll never run out of cards. Add notes to newly received cards, or view social networking information directly from the app. Add new cards instantly to your iPhone Contacts. Add your company’s logo to cards for a professional look and feel (from the website).

Never forget who you shared a card with, or where. Cardcloud saves the location of where a business card was shared or sent so you know the context of how met your new acquaintance. When they update their contact information, you’ll be notified of any changes automatically.

Share cards with iPhone, iPod touch, iPad or any e-mail address. All that is required is an internet connection (WiFi or cellular).

Cardcloud for iPhone connects directly with the online cloud so your contacts are always up to date with the latest contact information. Log in to the website to get access to all other features.

Cardcloud for iPhone also allows you to exchange business cards with other phones besides iPhones. By entering each other’s Cardcloud username, you will be able to share cards between iPhones and Blackberries, Nokias, etc.

In the case the person you want to share a card with is not on Cardcloud, enter an email address to share your card and get connected at another time.

**Photosynth-Interactive Panorama Capture and Sharing (iOS-Free)**

**Photosynth for iOS** is the panorama creation and sharing app that lets you capture more of your world. Now you can capture 360° in all directions (up, down, left, and right) to create spectacular images. Using the latest in computer vision techniques, Photosynth makes it easy and fun to create and share interactive panoramas of wherever you are. Photosynth can share images and interactive panorama experiences to Facebook (with the included free Photosynth.net service). Integration with Bing Maps means millions of people could see your panoramas on maps and in search results for locations you’ve captured.

**Features:**

- See your panorama take shape as you capture them with INTERACTIVE CAPTURE
- Look and capture in all directions with FULL-SPHERE PANORAMAS
- See the final panorama right away with fast ON-DEVICE PROCESSING
- Sharp, high-resolution results with the ADVANCED IMAGE STITCHING ENGINE
- Panoramas are always available to view and share from the ON-DEVICE LIBRARY
- Zoom, pan, stretch, and view in landscape or portrait with the IMMERSIVE VIEWER
- Save as many panoramas as you want and view them online at PHOTOSYNTH.NET
- Share to Facebook with images or interactive panoramas
- Share to Bing Maps to see your panoramas throughout Bing
- Your panorama images are available to any app from the Camera Roll

Photosynth’s unique capture experience requires an iPhone 3Gs, iPhone 4, iPad 2, or iPod Touch (Fourth Generation).
National Student Solar Spectrograph Competition

The National Student Solar Spectrograph Competition is the Montana Space Grant Consortium’s Education Program for NASA’s Interface Region Imaging Spectrograph mission. IRIS will use spectrography and imaging in ultraviolet wavelengths to reveal the dynamics of the sun’s chromospheres and transition region.

This yearly competition is open to undergraduate interdisciplinary teams from colleges and universities across the U.S. Teams are challenged to design and build a working ground-based solar spectrograph and demonstrate the capabilities of the spectrograph by making pre-defined observations of the solar spectrum. Typical teams have three to six students and must have a faculty advisor.

Both substantial scholarship prizes and travel prizes will be given in four categories: best design, best build, best science observations and best presentation of results. Teams may apply for funding of $2,000 per team for project materials. Priority for build funds will be given to minority-serving institutions, community colleges and institutions with less aerospace activity.

Applications for build awards are due May 30, 2011. Build awards will be distributed in June 2011. Registrations are due on Aug. 30, 2011. As space allows, late registrations may be accepted until Dec. 31, 2011.

The competition will be held in Bozeman, Mont., in May 2012.

For more information and to register online, visit http://www.spacegrant.montana.edu/IRIS/index.html

Please email any questions about this competition to Randy Larimer at rlarimer@ece.montana.edu.

2011 Space Tech Engineering Design Challenge

NASA has invited college students to take part in the 2011 Space Tech Engineering Design Challenge. Students are invited to design a technology that will help further space exploration and development. Designs may relate to autonomous operations; entry, descent and landing; human factors; power/propulsion including for operation in space and on other planetary bodies; or robotics (not related to in-situ lunar samples). Students entering other NASA contests, such as Lunabotics or RASC-ALs, may not submit the same entry or technology that they used for the other contests. All entries must be original and must be the work of students, not faculty or corporate partners.

The contest is open to any full-time student enrolled in an accredited post-secondary institution in the United States. This category includes universities, colleges, trade schools, community colleges, professional schools, etc. Interdisciplinary teams are encouraged.

A notice of intent is requested as soon as possible. Final entries are due June 1, 2011.

For more information and a complete list of rules, visit http://spacetech.larc.nasa.gov

Questions about the challenge should be directed to Elizabeth Ward at Elizabeth.B.Ward@nasa.gov.

PBS Design Squad Nation: ‘One Giant Leap’

A new full-length episode of PBS Design Squad Nation is now available online. In this episode, engineers Judy and Adam invite Felipe -- an accomplished 15-year-old pilot from Miami, Fla. -- to compete in the 2010 Red Bull Flugtag competition. Together, they team up with NASA to design and build a human-powered flying machine. With their NASA-inspired glider design, Team One Giant Leap soars off a 30-foot high deck, impressing the judges with distance and style.

Click the links below to view the episode online.

Part One: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLYzD4ukQ4s
Part Two: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5w7zuIYt2Q

For more information and to find more Design Squad Nation videos and resources, visit http://pbskids.org/designsquad/
The Space Shuttle (Video - Narrated by William Shatner)


Link:  http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlnasa/videos/dnmovies/MiscNASAMovies/The_Space_Shuttle.mp4

Username = nasamovies
Password = aesp

An idea born in unsettled times becomes a feat of engineering excellence. The most complex machine ever built to bring humans to and from space and eventually construct the next stop on the road to space exploration.

Now that the era of the Space Shuttle is fast closing, this is a good review video of the history, science, and technology behind the space shuttle effort.

More Student Suggested Educational Websites...

http://nineplanets.org/

On this website you can find an overview of each of the planets. You can learn about their history, mythology and the current scientific knowledge of each of the planets and their moons as well as many other objects that are found in our solar system. There are videos and images from NASA on each page. One intriguing way to find out more about the solar system is to tour it virtually. Click on the link that says “tour the solar system” This is a really neat website.

http://www.weatherwizkids.com/weather-experiments.htm

This is a fun website all about weather experiments. Learn how to make a tornado in a jar, bend water, make thunder or track a lightning storm. This is a fun website for teachers to help make learning fun for students.

The very first Southern Utah Education Conference (SUECON) will be held at Desert Hills High School, in St. George Utah on the 13th and 14th of October, 2011. SUECON arises out of the recognition by both the Utah Coalition for Educational Technology (UCET) and the Utah Educational Library Media Association (UELMA) that there is a need to provide all teachers and other educators with a local venue for an educational conference in the region. The Washington County School District has teamed up with these two organizations to provide a high quality educational conference experience for all educators in the region and across the state.
Sony has created a streaming, wireless network media player, the SMP-N100. With it, you can enjoy a variety of entertainment. Wirelessly stream movies, TV episodes, videos and music from Netflix®, YouTube™, Pandora®, Hulu Plus™ and more. Easily access your music, videos and photos in up to Full HD 1080p when you connect a USB drive or wirelessly stream them over home network using your PC. You can even download the free “BD remote” app to turn your iPhone®, iPod touch®, or compatible Android™ phone into a versatile remote.

The small box (Dimensions (Approx.) : 7 3/8" x 1 5/8" x 7 3/8") has a power button on the front, as well as a powered USB port. You can connect an external hard drive (FAT32, NTFS), USB Flash Memory (FAT32, NTFS), or a USB Keyboard.

On the back, you’ll find a 100 MB ethernet port, composite video out, component video out, HDMI out, optical digital audio out, and power in jack.

The wireless offers built-in 802.11n connectivity, which allows you to connect to the the internet, or stream content from computers or storage devices on a home network, anywhere there’s a TV screen.

It comes with a remote control, but I really like the mediaremote app that can control this device from your iPad, iPod Touch, or iPhone. You can get the free mediaremote app here...


At $99, this makes a wonderful addition to a classroom - particularly if you already have a TV in the room. I added a 1 TB external, portable hard drive (one that’s powered off the USB port) for another $99, and copied all my eMedia videos to it. Now I have all my educational videos, podcasts, photographs, and audio files instantly available at any time.

I particularly like that the SMP-N100 plays almost any file format. It can handle AAC, AVC-HD, DiVX and DiVX-HD, JPG, WAV, MP3, VOB, MPG, MPEG, MKV, MP4, M4V, MOV, WMA, WMV, and more. And they all play very nicely on my HD TV.

Enjoy your favorite media files on your TV—all without leaving the couch. This DLNA Certified® media player lets you access videos, photos and music stored on your DLNA Certified computer or other DLNA compliant devices using your home network.
Welcome, Summer!

The students are gone - the hallways are silent. Summer has come (or maybe spring finally arrived after the wettest March-May on record in northern Utah). Do you have big summer plans?

The George Lucas Educational Foundation has released a free publication in PDF (registration required) entitled Summer Rejuvenation Guide: 10 Tips to Help You Relax, Reflect, and Recharge. Edutopia is committed to highlighting what works in education and providing educators like us 21st-century strategies, tools, and resources to help our children learn. Download your copy today at http://www.edutopia.org/summer-rejuvenation-classroom-resource-guide

From Edutopia: “It’s time for you! Time to relax, reflect, and recharge. Whether your summer plans call for a cool adventure or professional development, you’ll find resource-packed ideas here. Take the time to learn about digital storytelling or join a site for bookworms and, most importantly, enjoy your summer!

What’s Inside the PDF?

- Grow Your Network
- Party with the Stars
- Do-It-Yourself Professional Development
- Tell the Story of Your Life
- Try Something New
- Curate Classroom Artifacts
- Give a Little, Get a Lot
- Get Moving
- Crack the Books
- Plan Ahead for Next Summer”

Special Thanks this month to...

Kim Iverson, Kateri Vernon, Amy Baldwin, Janalee Keller, Zena Redden, and Chelsie Jackson - who have worked hard to learn inDesign, and provided much of this month’s UCET newsletter.

The Utah Coalition for Educational Technology wishes you a great summer!
Macintosh Targeted!

Our IT folks are seeing quite a few Macintosh users who have been attacked by Mac Defender (aka MacSecurity and MacProtector). Apple released a security update last week to protect Macintosh users, but the criminals immediately released a new version that got around the protections the update afforded. I’m afraid this cat-and-mouse game will continue in similar fashion that Windows users have become all too familiar with.

First, let me share more information about this MacDefender attack - please watch this short YouTube video from Sophos - one of the antivirus solutions for PCs and Mac.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Xna558Fm8&feature=player_embedded#at=14

There are a few antivirus products out there for Macintosh. Let me share them with you - and suggest that it’s time to install an antivirus for your Macintosh. One program I will list, Deep Freeze, is not an antivirus application, but it can save you from a virus or malware app.

Faronics Deep Freeze - Macintosh - https://software.cart.usu.edu/Details.cfm?ProdID=1732&category=74

Faronics Deep Freeze Mac helps eliminate workstation damage and downtime by making computer configurations indestructible. Once Deep Freeze Mac is installed on a workstation, any changes made to the computer—regardless of whether they are accidental or malicious—are never permanent. Deep Freeze Mac provides immediate immunity from many of the problems that plague computers today—accidental system misconfiguration, malicious software activity, and incidental system degradation.

Basically, if something messes with your computer - all you need to do is restart, and everything is back to the way it was. Of course, you must “thaw” again changed their fake security updates in as many days to combat the con.

The newest version of what’s generically called “MacDefender” appeared Friday, according to a pair of security companies. The phony antivirus program now goes by the name “MacShield,” the fifth title since the early-May appearance of the scheme.

Apple in turn released another signature update early Friday to XProtect, the bare bones anti-malware tool tucked into Mac OS X 10.6, aka Snow Leopard.

News and Views...
Revealed - A Peek at Windows 8

When the iPad was first introduced, Steve Jobs announced that it was the beginning of the “post PC” era. Last week, when Microsoft revealed a peek at Windows 8 - it looks like they agree. This version of Windows was made for Tablets.

The first thing you’ll notice is that it was made for touch screens. The left and right sides of the screen control Windows 8. Swipe in from the right side, and your Windows menu appears that lets you launch applications. Swiping in from the left side of the screen allows you to cycle through open applications. Application specific controls are accessed by swiping down from the top, or up from the bottom of the screen. This is by far the most dramatic makeover Windows has ever seen in its history. (See image below)

You can have a look at the preview yourself:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-13628154
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6XKBLHTSOw&feature=related

Microsoft offers a Free Malware Scanner that Boots from Flash Drive or CD

Link: http://connect.microsoft.com/systemsweeper

In an effort to help their customer base, and relieve the load on help calls to Microsoft, the company is offering a beta version of a new product. Microsoft Standalone System Sweeper Beta, a recovery tool that can help you start an infected PC and perform an offline scan to help identify and remove rootkits and other advanced malware. In addition, Microsoft Standalone System Sweeper Beta can be used if you cannot install or start an antivirus solution on your PC, or if the installed solution can’t detect or remove malware on your PC.

It’s available for both 32 and 64 bit Windows. It uses the same scanning engine as Microsoft Security Essentials.
Granite School District Hosts Intel Teach: Thinking with Technology Course - August 1-4, 2011

Granite District is hosting an Intel Teach: Thinking With Technology Course this summer. They have open seats and would like to invite teachers from other districts to participate.

This Intel training will be August 1-4 in the computer lab at the Granite Education Center – Room D-228.

2500 S. State Street
Salt Lake City, UT

If you are interested you should contact:
Shauna Jensen
svjensen@graniteschools.org
(385) 646-4110

Here is some additional information about this course:

The Intel® Teach Thinking with Technology Course builds on effective technology integration skills. Teachers use free online tools to support the development and assessment of their students’ higher-order thinking skills.

Through Thinking with Technology, teachers learn instructional strategies for addressing and assessing thinking skills, using technology to support deeper understanding of core content. The goal is for teachers to leave the course with a standards-based unit plan, support materials, and implementation strategies to improve and assess students’ higher-order thinking with the use of free online tools.

This modular course provides hands-on experiences with unique online thinking tools that engage students and help them to communicate their understanding of complex concepts. Each tool features an online workspace where students create and save visual representations of their thinking. Teachers play a critical role, facilitating learning activities and posing questions that take student thinking deeper.

UCET Members Invited to Attend the 1st SUECON

The Washington County School District, the Utah Coalition for Educational Technology (UCET), and UELMA would like to welcome you to the first Southern Utah Education Conference (SUECON) held in beautiful St. George, Utah.

It will be held at Desert Hills High School, 828 East Desert Hills Drive, St. George, UT 84790.

Keynote speakers will be Milton Chen - Public Broadcasting, Edutopia, Sesame Street, George Lucas Educational Foundation; and Jaime Casap, Google Education Evangelist.

Milton Chen is a senior fellow and executive director emeritus of the George Lucas Educational Foundation (GLEF). He was founding director of the KQED Center for Education (PBS) in San Francisco, managing the channel’s television programming, Web content, and outreach services for schools and families. Milton Chen was also a director of research at Sesame Workshop, in New York, working on Sesame Street, The Electric Company, and 3-2-1 Contact. Milton also serves as an assistant professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Jaime Casap is an Education Evangelist at Google, inc., a provider of search technology based in Mountain View, CA. In his role on the Google Apps for Education Team, Jaime is responsible for evangelizing Google Apps to education institutions, especially in the K12 space. He is responsible for signing state level agreements with Oregon, Iowa, Colorado, and New York, bringing cloud based technology tools to millions of students and teachers in K12. He is also working with a number of Education Reform Organizations, bringing the technology perspective to improving education in the U.S.

Learn more about the conference, and register online at...

http://www.suecon.org/

Registration will be open until September 25, 2011.

The title and theme for this first conference is “Targeting 21st Century Learning”. We are encouraging presenters to place an emphasis on integrating technology into the classroom and differentiated instruction within their presentations. Teachers will have the opportunity to see and learn how current classroom technologies can be used to improve student achievement.
Navigate the Moon on Your iPad or iPhone

NASA’s Lunar Electric Rover Simulator is a free iOS app that lets you explore the moon. The app is really a game in which players perform tasks to support the activities of a lunar outpost. Players transport items from place to place and along the way encounter lunar challenges to overcome. The app also includes an interactive gallery of images. You can download the app for free from iTunes.

Applications for Education

The Lunar Electric Rover Simulator app appears to be similar in purpose to NASA’s role playing game Moonbase Alpha. Like Moonbase Alpha the game could be a good way for students to pick up some knowledge about lunar exploration while having fun playing a game.

http://www.freetech4teachers.com

iTalk Recorder

iTalk Recorder is one of the top downloaded app for Ipad and IPhone. iTalk Recorder allows its users to record audio and save it into their mobile library. I just can’t believe it is free now. As educators, iTalk Recorder can be very helpful when attending lectures or meetings, use it to record whatever going on around you and just the way you want it.

Applications in Education

iTalk Recorder is all pluses for educators. As i said before this is a great tool for professional development, how many times we attend important meetings, lectures, or seminars and we just can not note everything that has been dealt with, now with iTalk Recorder it is completely different. You wont let go of any info no matter how little it is. I strongly advise you to have this free app on your mobile devices.

Link: http://educationaltech-med.blogspot.com/2011/05/italk-recorder-free-audio-recording_11.html

iAdvocate

iAdvocate is a free application available through iTunes that provides information on advocacy strategies for parents to help ensure school-aged children with disabilities are provided appropriate services and resources in their education. The app contains three sections for users—strategies that parents can pursue as advocates; resources, information and links to laws, books, articles, websites, videos and organizations that can provide information on inclusive education; and responses, which features simulated conversations between parents and school professionals. The app also connects to the SUPAC website, which provides additional exchanges of information and ideas.

Stuff for Classroom Teachers

Link:  http://www.edzone.net/~mwestern/stuff.html

This site has hundreds of free downloads, ideas and resources for teachers, students and their classrooms. Under each of the following categories there are games, programs and helps for classroom use that is free for educational purposes.

- Educational Language Arts Stuff for Kids
- Reading Practice
- Play with Words
- LA Games
- Writing
- Spelling
- Educational Social Stuff for Kids
- Geocaching (that's gee-oh-cash-ing)
- Way Cool Maps
- Educational Math Stuff for Kids
- Educational Fine Arts Stuff for Kids
- A Little of Everything Stuff for Kids
- Kid Friendly Directories
- Kid Friendly Search Engines
- Kid Friendly Browsers
- Educational Science Stuff for Kids
- Communication Stuff
- Keyboarding for Kids
- Keyboarding Practice for Kids
- Internet Safety
- Teaching Stuff
- Language Arts
- Research
- Math
- Science/Social Studies
- Games
- SmartBoard
- Organizers
- Teacher Tools

Study Stack

Link:  http://www.studystack.com/

Study Stack is a free site (requires registration) that allows you to...

- Find flashcards to study or create your own flashcards.
- Study flashcards or use the other activities such as matching, crosswords, hangman, scrambled word, or bug chase.
- Study flashcards anytime and anywhere by printing your flashcards or by using them with applications on your cell phone, PDA, or iPod.

From their website: “Flashcards can be a very effective tool for studying for a test. Whenever you have lots of facts that you need to memorize, flashcards can be very helpful. The ease in which you can study a few cards at a time, helps you to be able to study in smaller blocks of time instead of trying to cram for many hours the night before a test. Using flashcards repeatedly over a few days will also help your long term memorization of facts.

However, old fashion flashcards written on index cards do have some disadvantages. One is that you have to remember to keep the cards with you so that you can use them whenever you have some free time. And if you want to share them with a classmate, making copies can be a pain. Digital flashcards eliminate both of these problems. You can store flashcards on your computer or the smart phone that you never go anywhere without. And sharing web based flashcards is as easy as telling your friends the web address of a set of flashcards.

StudyStack takes online flashcards to a whole new level. The site automatically creates many other activities based on the data from your flashcards. These activities have two main benefits. The first is that studying won’t be so boring. So without even realizing it you’ll naturally study more. The second benefit is that by reviewing the data in several different formats, you’ll end up memorizing the information better as your brain makes several different connections with the data.

StudyStack will continue to create new activities using your flashcard data. If you have any suggestions, please fill out the comment form or send an email to suggestions@studystack.com.”
Diipo

Link: http://diipo.com/

Diipo is a new social networking tool for both students and educators. Diipo promises to connect teachers and students online and make communication fast and easy. It includes many wonderful key features such as:

- **Classrooms** - Dashboards and apps to keep your students up-to-date, get questions answered and collaborating on blogs and group projects. Collaborative workpages help keep track of students and what they are working on, making it easy to get questions answered and students to participate in blogging and other group projects.

- **Direct Messaging** - Start a private conversation with classmate and teachers.

- **Student projects** - Online projects notebooks for students working together to share the information they collect with each other.

- **Educator Community** - Connect with other educators to share and exchange ideas and best practices on how to get the most out of Education Technologies. Educators can also share educational content with each other, brainstorm ideas for collaborative projects, pen-pal programs and more.

- **Class Roster** - Connecting teachers and students to make it easy to find and communicate with one another.

- **Administrative Tools** - Easy to use admin features to help keep your class running smoothly

- **Education Microblogging** - Engage students to start conversation, ask questions, and actively participate in class discussion.

- **Student Blogs** - Easily create blogs for students to share their thoughts, practice writing and journaling. Students can also work together on pen-pal projects and even collaborate and communicate with students from another class

- **Files, Links and Images** - Upload and share documents, links and other resources with classmates, project members or the entire class.

- **Profiles** - Create personal and class profiles to become discoverable for other educators and classes to find you.

- **Knowledge Base** - Every conversation and post is archived and searchable so you and your students can easily find what you are looking for.

- **Topics** - Tag messages, content and workpages in your class to easily organize and find content.

Creepy

Creepy is an application that allows you to gather geolocation related information about users from social networking platforms and image hosting services. The information is presented in a map inside the application where all the retrieved data is shown accompanied with relevant information to provide context to the presentation.

Just enter anyone's twitter name and click the Geolocate Target button and it will compile a list of all the publicly available location data posted to that Twitter account including Foursquare check ins, GPS data and more.

You will see the latitude and longitude coordinates with a time stamp on the left and a map on the right. When you select a coordinate it will display the associated tweet at the bottom. Clicking the creepy menu item and choosing map source will let you display different types of maps, from Google satellite, open street map, and more. So, if you want a new way to see just how much location data you are willingly sharing with the world try Creepy today.

Link: http://ilektrojohn.github.com/creepy

Appolicious

Appolicious is a website and application to help users easily find mobile applications that are useful and interesting to them. The service combines social networking, journalism and technology. Appolicious aims to allow consumers to find mobile apps they love by connecting directly to friends and experts about mobile apps. Their recommendation engine determines what apps you have, what apps your friends and the rest of the community have. It uses individual app ratings and reviews to suggest new apps for you to use.

Link: http://www.appolicious.com
How Can You Share Specific Text on a Web Page???

Awesome Highlighter - http://www.awesomehighlighter.com/

Awesome Highlighter lets you highlight text on web pages (like using a yellow highlighter pen) and then gives you a small link to the highlighted page. How is this accomplished?

1) Insert a web page address in the URL field on the site and click “highlight page”
2) Select the text you want to highlight on the next page
3) Click “Done” when you’re finished
4) Copy & paste the short url, or email your highlights

Or, you can download and use their FireFox addon or their Bookmarklet.

Another site that does something similar is CiteBite. http://citebite.com/

Flashcard Machine

Link: http://www.flashcardmachine.com/

From their website: “Flashcard Machine was created by Madhu Lundquist while pursuing his BFA in Multimedia Design at the University of Oregon. After discovering that all of the images for his art history class were available on a class web page, he started creating web-based flashcards. As he began building this application he realized the value in creating a set just once that he could then share with his classmates. Flashcard Machine was born. This was back in 2000. Today, Flashcard Machine is a growing community of hundreds of thousands of students, teachers and professionals around the world with a shared goal in mind, to succeed at their studies.

Flashcard Machine is a free service to our users. However, the site is not free to operate so we graciously accept donations. Just click the ‘Make a Donation’ link found on any page of the site to make a donation.

Study your flashcards on go with the iStudyToGo application that enables you to study your cards on your iPod. We have partnered up with iStudyToGo to offer our users a 10% discount on their software. iStudyToGo is a great solution for studying your flashcards on the iPod.

We are always interested in hearing how the site can be improved to better help you exceed at your studies. Please don’t hesitate to send any suggestions our way via our support form."

Students — Create flash cards to help you study for your next exam. Share them with either your classmates or the entire community.

Teachers — Create flash cards for your students. Build customized pages for each of your classes to better organize your cards.

There are presently over 42 million flashcards on the site.

Flashcard Friends

Link: http://www.flashcardfriends.com

This site lets you create flashcards, find and modify existing flashcards, share them with your friends, test yourself. The site is free, but requires registration. It is currently in Beta.

Quizlet - Free Flashcard Creation and Study Site

Link: http://quizlet.com/

With Quizlet, you can make or find flashcards from the millions that have been created by other Quizlet users. It has three modes of operation:

• Flashcard Mode lets you familiarize yourself with the material.
• Learn Mode is the most powerful study mode, keeping track of your scores, and retesting incorrect answers.
• Test Mode generates customizable tests with short-answer, matching, multiple choice and true/false options.

Quizlet allows you to share and study with your friends. You can create a group to share or discuss flashcards. You can also edit and improve sets created by other group members.

Play competitive study games at the Quizlet site. For example, Scatter is a fun matching game which lets you drag and drop questions and answers with your mouse while racing against the clock. Space Race is the ultimate video game study simulation. Racing the clock, you type in answers to questions flying overhead before they evade your grasp.

Study on the Go. Choose from dozens of mobile apps on iPhone, Android, Palm, etc.

Use Quizlet in the Classroom. Teachers, give your students a free study tool that’s both powerful and fun. Host a group where your students can create and discuss study materials for your class.

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Flashcard Machine is a free service to our users. However, the site is not free to operate so we graciously accept donations. Just click the ‘Make a Donation’ link found on any page of the site to make a donation.

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We are always interested in hearing how the site can be improved to better help you exceed at your studies. Please don’t hesitate to send any suggestions our way via our support form.”

Students — Create flash cards to help you study for your next exam. Share them with either your classmates or the entire community.

Teachers — Create flash cards for your students. Build customized pages for each of your classes to better organize your cards.

There are presently over 42 million flashcards on the site.
MinyanLand
Link: http://www.minyanland.com/

Minyan Land is a free virtual world environment designed to teach kids about budgeting their money. Each player starts out in Minyan Land with $50,000 cash and a condo valued at $50,000. In Minyan Land players can invest their money, spend their money, and complete tasks to earn more money.

Parents can get involved by assigning real-world chores to their children. The kids then earn virtual money by completing those chores. The spending opportunities in Minyan Land aren't limited to just buying things for personal use. Players are given opportunities to donate some of their virtual currency to various virtual causes.

Applications for Education

Minyan Land could be a good way for elementary and possibly middle school students to learn about managing personal finances. The option to give their children real chores to do to earn virtual money in Minyan Land could be a good way for parents to get involved in the learning process.

From the website: “Everyone starts out in MinyanLand with $50,000 in MinyanMoney and a Condo worth $50,000. You can visit the ATM in the Bank of MinyanLand to invest your money. Come back daily to see if your balance has gone up or down -- just like in the real world! You can also earn more MinyanMoney by doing real-life chores your parents assign you called Virtual Allowance.

What to Do, Where to Go

The WorldMap of MinyanLand shows you all the places to go in town. The MinyanLand Journal keeps you on top of what's new. Read it every day!

You can earn money by playing the games of MinyanLand.

Here are the games and where to find them:
• Lemonade Stand (Ollie's Diner, Playground)
• Guitar Mayhem (Matt's MusicLand)
• Paper Route (Newsstand, Playground)
• Concentration (Newsstand, Playground Tent)
• Balloon Quiz (Newsstand, School)
• Fill in the Face (Playground Tent)
• Fill in the Name (School)
• Catch the Money (Playground)
• Word Search (Playground)
• Money Sorter (Bank)
• Cluedoku (Newsstand, Playground)
• Boo Blvd. (Playground)
• Where Did You Get that Money? (Bank, Playground)
• Quiz Boxes (Ollie's Diner, Theater, School)

Allen Wyatt’s WordTips (Help for Microsoft Word)
Link: http://word.tips.net/

From the website: “Microsoft Word is an incredibly powerful program, but getting at that power may not be as easy or intuitive as you might like. It can be incredibly frustrating when you know you should be able to do something with the program but can’t, for the life of you, figure out how to do it.

WordTips is designed to help you figure out how to do the things you need to do with Microsoft Word, right now! Here you can find answers to your Microsoft Word questions, and those answers are free! This site contains thousands of tips, tricks, and ideas on how to use Microsoft Word better, faster, and more easily.

In particular, this site is most helpful for users of the menu-based Word interface. That means that the vast majority of tips on this site are for users of Word 97, Word 2000, Word 2002, and Word 2003. If you are using a newer version of Microsoft Word, you’ll want to check out our sister site, which focuses on the ribbon-based Word interface introduced in Word 2007. You can find it at http://wordribbon.tips.net.

You can quickly access the answers you need on this site in two ways:
• Browse through the index by clicking on the links below. (A bracketed number after a topic indicates the number of articles related to that topic.)
• Enter your question or keywords in the search box at the top-right corner of every page.

This Web site is part of the Tips.net network, where you can find all sorts of ideas for making your life easier, more productive, and more thrifty.
FILExt - What is That File Extension???

FILExt: If you need to look up what a certain file extension is and which programs can open it, Filext.com comes in handy for that process. FILExt is a database of file extensions and all the various programs that use them. You enter the file extension that you want to learn more about into the search box and click search. If what you are looking for is in the FILExt database then the data about that file extension will be shown on the results page. If what you were looking for is not in the database, then you will be given a link to a page with hints on how to do further research. It is best to not search on terms; just do the file extensions one at a time.

Link: http://www.filext.com

CourseSites - Your Courses Online - Free

CourseSite is a no-cost online learning environment that you can set up to match your personal teaching style, curricula, and student needs. It can give you great opportunities beyond the traditional classroom. You can create CourseSites to post materials, communicate with students, encourage collaboration, monitor performance, and manage grades. CourseSites are convenient because they are available to you and your students anytime, 24/7 via the Internet. The flexible menu and course design capabilities give educators at all levels the ability to connect with learners of all ages—from K-12 all the way through to retirement and beyond. CourseSites support all types of teaching and learning needs, form lecture series to social learning and even employee training.

Link: https://www.coursesites.com

Schoology

Schoology is a free easy to use, fully presented, and fully managed course management system with an integrated social network. This program enables students and instructors to manage classroom work while having the ability to communicate and collaborate through a safe and secure online network. The following features are included on Schoology; a gradebook, attendance tool, blogging platform, and a document dropbox.

The basic, free feature set is as follows:

**Academic Features**
- Class Profiles/Webpages
- Create Assignments & Events
- Create Tests & Quizzes
- Manage Gradebook & Attendance
- Online Dropboxes
- Track Student Usage & Course Analytics
- iPhone App Android Coming Soon

**Social Features**
- Cross-School Networking & Private Messaging
- Group Workspaces for Departments, PTA, Clubs, Teams, & More
- Blogs & Profile Pages
- Personal File Storage / Bookmarking
- Management Features
- School, Course, Group & Personal Calendars
- Email & SMS Text Notifications
- Privacy Control & Word Filters

**Administrative Features**
- Email Address and Username Support
- Import / Export Courses, Users, & Grades
- School Vanity URL
- Parent / Guardian Access
- Application Programming Interface (API)

Schoology also has a paid, premium feature set available to school districts or schools that wish to purchase them.

Link: http://www.schoology.com

ePub Bud

ePUB BUD is a wonderful site, and one of the first of its kind. If you are a teacher and would like to provide some reading opportunities for students or would like to create options for students to be able to publish their books www.epubbud.com is a great site to consider. This user friendly site allows for many options and the best part is it’s all FREE!! Some possible options this site possess include:

- Browse all eBooks- Browse all the eBook files others have shared and import them to your mobile device such as an ipad or kindle.
- Create an eBook- Write, edit and publish a book online to share with family and friends all over the world.
- Convert an eBook- Upload any document you want to read, share, or publish, and they will convert it to ePub.
- Digitize a Real Book- Mail them any physical children's book and they will digitize it for use on your preference such as your ipad.
- Sell Your eBook- You can also sell you book through their site or other sites such as Apple, Barnes & Noble, and Amazon.

Link: http://www.epubbud.com
CueCard (Free)

Link: http://www.wadeb.com/cuecard/

Developed by Wade Brainerd, CueCard is a simple and intuitive flash card program. Just make up cards for what you want to memorize, and CueCard will quiz you on them. CueCard automatically focuses on the cards you are having trouble with. CueCard also offers printing, pictures and sounds on cards, Unicode support, a multi-lingual user interface, Import/Export and a variety of study modes.

What’s new in this version: CueCard Forums are now available for discussing CueCard and for sharing your cards. Visit http://www.wadeb.com/cuecard/forum/ to take part!


Keep Your Software Up-To-Date

Link: http://download.cnet.com/CNET-TechTracker/3000-18513_4-10912909.html?tag=contentMain;contentBody;1d

From the download page on CNET.com: “CNET TechTracker is a free application from CNET that helps keep the software on your computer up-to-date and secure. TechTracker works by scanning your computer and alerting you when updates are available. Keeping software up-to-date is important because updates often contain patches that make your computer more secure and new features that make your software better.

TechTracker leverages the CNET Downloads software catalog-the largest catalog of software in the world--to provide secure, spyware-free software updates. From one easy-to-use interface, you can keep track of all software updates in one place and ensure you are running the latest versions.

Get the latest software updates: Learn whether any of the software installed on your computer is up-to-date. If updates are available, TechTracker lets you download them from a central interface. Get notified as new updates become available.

Customize how often TechTracker looks for updates: Choose between daily, weekly, monthly, and manual scans of your computer to discover whether you are running out-of-date software.

Hide & Skip applications: Hide applications you are not interested in tracking, or skip a version of an application until the next update is available.

Receive email alerts: Stay informed by receiving e-mail alerts when new updates are available for the products you are most interested in.

Access product information: Your CNET TechTracker home page shows you what software is installed on your machine, and lets you download any available updates from a single interface. View your software update's file information, installed version, latest version, average user rating, editor's rating, and other software data.”

A Macintosh version is also available - but it didn't receive good reviews.

Personal Menu for FireFox

The personal firefox button enables you to completely customize the content and layout of your Firefox menu button. This feature is available at http://addons.mozilla.org

The personal menu extension provides a ton of customization options. In the edit menus button you can rearrange, add and remove links, add separators and much more. This add on also adds a history and bookmark button to your navigation tool bar. You can assign certain actions to this button when you right click or middle click each one. For example by default middle clicking the bookmarks button will open all bookmarks in a separate window and you can set a launch for your bookmarks as a sidebar if you would like. So if you want addons.mozilla.org to switch up your menu options, try this extension!
NASA DLN Webcast -- Aquarius Mission

Join host Damon Talley of NASA's Digital Learning Network, Education Specialist Christopher Blair, and Argentine native and current Kennedy Space Center employee Laura Midulla live from Kennedy Space Center for the prelaunch webcast of the Aquarius Mission. Aquarius is a focused satellite mission to measure global sea surface salinity. NASA will partner with the Argentine space program Comision Nacional De Actividades Especiales, or CONAE, on the Aquarius mission, building on a successful long-standing relationship between NASA and Argentina. Multiple universities and corporate and international partners will be involved in the Aquarius mission.

Tune in to the hourlong webcast on June 8, 2011, at 3 p.m. EDT. Please submit questions to dlinfochannel@gmail.com for a chance to have your question answered during the live webcast!

For more information, visit http://dl.nasa.gov/dlnapp/webcast/webcast.do.

If you have any questions about this webcast, please contact Christopher Blair at Christopher.E.Blair@nasa.gov.

NASA Summer of Innovation Mini-Grants

Second Opportunity

The NASA Office of Education is pleased to offer a second opportunity for Summer of Innovation, or SoI, Mini-Grants in partnership with the National Space Grant Foundation. The mini-grant aspect of the SoI enables local organizations to infuse NASA-themed science, technology, engineering and mathematics content and activities to middle school students through existing summer and/or afterschool programs.

Organizations are eligible to apply for up to $2,500 in funding to incorporate SoI content and themes into their programming. Application deadline is June 17, 2011, with an anticipated award announcement date of July 1, 2011.

For eligibility, timeline and application information, please see the SoI Mini-Grant page on the Space Grant Foundation website, which can be found here:

http://soi.spacegrant.org/about

Additionally, please find answers to Frequently Asked Questions for more information about this exciting opportunity here:

http://soi.spacegrant.org/faq#faq-expand-all-link

The SoI Mini-Grant Program anticipates making approximately 200 awards during the 2011 fiscal year.

Over 300 New Titles - All Videos Now MP4!

Link: http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlnasa/videos/dnmovies/

My employees and I have spent the past week updating all the NASA Educational Videos at TeacherLINK to the current MP4 H264 video format. Presently there are over 900 videos here that NASA has provided to our nation’s classrooms.

You’ll be pleased to know that this section of TeacherLINK no longer requires a username and password. All videos have been compressed into .ZIP files for download.

The newest videos added are NASA’s eClips vodcasts. There are four series in the eClips collection - each focused on a different audience.

NASA 360 - General Public. This thirty-minute magazine style program highlights NASA’s impact on daily lives, showcasing some of the 30,000 inventions developed by NASA over the past 50 years.

NASA Launchpad - for grades 9-12: These video segments support project-based and problem-based learning experiences in science, mathematics, and career and technical education classrooms.

NASA's The Real World Mathematics - Grades 6-8: These video segments connect classroom mathematics to 21st century careers and innovations and are designed for students to develop an appreciation for mathematics through real-world problem-solving.

NASA’s Our World - Grades K-5: This program supplements existing elementary learning objectives not only in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, but also in reading, writing, and visual and performing arts.

You can also get to the eClips series at the NASA portal:

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/nasaeclips/index.html

From there you can watch the programs, download the videos, and subscribe to the vodcasts. It would be well worth your time to explore these wonderful educational tools.
Utah Implementing Common Core

The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy.

Utah is one of over 40 states and territories that have agreed to transition their core standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics to a set of standards common to all states. This summer, teachers all over the states are attending classes to learn ways to implement the new common core standards. This begins a massive statewide effort to train all teachers on implementing the common core standards in Math and Language Arts.

As educators in our public schools, you may be wondering where you can access more information about the common core standards and objectives. Look no further. Here are links to the Common Core site, the Common Core pages at the Utah State Office of Education, and the UEN's Common Core resources (see thumbnail view of the UEN common core page at left):

**Common Core State Standards Initiative:**
Link: [http://www.corestandards.org/](http://www.corestandards.org/)

**Utah State Office of Education Common Core Page:**
Link: [http://www.schools.utah.gov/core/](http://www.schools.utah.gov/core/)

**UEN Common Core State Standards & Resources:**
Link: [http://www.uen.org/commoncore/](http://www.uen.org/commoncore/)

Faithfully Capture Entire Webpages

Awesome Screenshot is a browser addon for Firefox, Google Chrome, and Safari that allows you to capture a whole page or any portion, annotate it with rectangles, circles, arrows, lines and text, one-click upload to share. You can also save the pages as .png graphics files to your hard drive. (See UEN example at left).

If you’ve tried unsuccessfully to print a webpage, and need to faithfully render an entire webpage, or capture just a portion and annotate it, this is the addon you want! Link: [http://awesomescreenshot.com/](http://awesomescreenshot.com/)
Proposal Deadline Approaching: Amateur Radio on the International Space Station Contact Opportunity

NASA is seeking U.S. formal and informal education institutions and organizations, individually or working together, to host an Amateur Radio on the International Space Station, or ARISS, contact between the dates of Jan. 15 and July 15, 2012. To maximize these radio contact opportunities, NASA is looking for organizations that will draw large numbers of participants and integrate the contact into a well-developed education plan. The deadline to submit a proposal is July 15, 2011.

During the first six months of 2012, crew members aboard the International Space Station will participate in amateur radio contacts. These radio contacts are approximately 10 minutes in length and allow students and educators to interact with the astronauts through a question-and-answer session. An ARISS contact is a voice-only communication opportunity via amateur radio between astronauts and cosmonauts aboard the space station and classrooms and communities. ARISS contacts afford education audiences the opportunity to learn firsthand from astronauts what it is like to live and work in space. Due to the nature of human spaceflight, organizations must demonstrate the flexibility to accommodate changes in contact dates and times.

Interested parties should contact Teaching From Space to obtain information related to expectations, content, format, audience, proposal guidelines and forms by sending an e-mail to JSC-TFS-ARISS@mail.nasa.gov or by calling 281-244-2320. Additional information can be found at http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/teachingfromspace/students/ariiss.htm

NASA Endeavor Science Teaching Certificate Project: K-12 Educator Fellowships

The NASA Endeavor Science Teaching Certificate Project awards one-year fellowships each year to over 40 current and prospective educators. The project is administered by U.S. Satellite Laboratory Inc. Funding authorization for the project is provided through the NASA Endeavor Teacher Fellowship Trust Fund as a tribute to the dedicated crew of the space shuttle Challenger.

In partnership with state departments of education, Endeavor Fellows take five graduate courses in an innovative, online format from the comfort of their homes or schools. In these courses, participants gain science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, professional development. They learn to apply research-based pedagogical strategies and cutting-edge STEM content to their classroom contexts while becoming part of a network of like-minded educators across the nation.

Endeavor Fellows earn and are awarded a NASA Endeavor Certificate in STEM Education from Teachers College, Columbia University. Fellows’ Leadership Distinction activities will promote learning outside the classroom walls in the fellows’ states or districts. Fifteen graduate credits are awarded from regionally accredited higher education partners.

Applications for Cohort 4 will be accepted through Oct. 15, 2011.

For more information, visit http://www.us-satellite.net/nasa/endeavor/index.cfm

Questions about this opportunity should be directed to nasa_endeavor@us-satellite.net.

Mars Day! 2011 at the National Air & Space Museum

Mars Day! is an annual National Air and Space Museum event that celebrates the Red Planet with educational and fun family activities. Visitors can take part in a variety of activities, see a real meteorite that came from Mars, talk to scientists active in Mars research, and learn about current and future missions.

Mars Day! 2011 will take place on Friday, July 22, 2011, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit http://www.nasm.si.edu/events/eventDetail.cfm?eventID=3106.

Dawn Mission’s Vesta Fiesta

After nearly four years and 1.6 billion miles, the Dawn spacecraft is catching up to the object of its first destination in the main asteroid belt: Vesta. Soon scientists will be able to explore this exciting new world up close.

To celebrate, NASA is hosting a Vesta fiesta! Taking advantage of three nights where Vesta is visible for night sky viewing with a telescope, the Dawn mission is inspiring fiestas across the nation on Aug. 5-7, 2011. The flagship fiesta will take place on Aug. 6, in Pasadena, Calif. This event will feature fun activities, engaging scientists and Bill Nye the Science Guy.

To find a Vesta fiesta near you, or to find ideas for hosting your own party, visit http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/news/vesta_fiesta.asp.
NASA Reveals New Batch of Space Program Artifacts for Loan

NASA is inviting eligible education institutions, museums and other organizations to examine and request space program artifacts online. Requestors should not talk directly to NASA. This is a limited opportunity for entities eligible to apply to the General Services Administration. Universities and schools not sponsored by the State Agency for Surplus Property, or SASP, must register online at http://gsaxcess.gov/NASAWel.htm to gain access to the prescreening module. The registration process requires a valid Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System or National Center for Education Statistics number assigned by the Department of Education. After registration is complete, GSAXcess® will email a user ID to the registrant to access the prescreening module.

SASP-sponsored public museums, universities and schools must contact their SASP to request access to the online prescreening module. The SASP determines the organization’s eligibility to screen/receive surplus government property and will assign unique user access IDs.

The items represent significant human spaceflight technologies, processes and accomplishments from NASA’s past and present space exploration programs. On June 15, 2011, NASA posted a new batch of artifacts.

These artifacts are from the Space Shuttle, Hubble Space Telescope, Apollo and International Space Station Programs. Examples of artifacts include a space shuttle payload bay mock-up, cockpit seats and Apollo-era glove assemblies.

Each artifact will be available for 42 days. For the first 21 days, internal organizations such as NASA visitor centers, agency exhibit managers and the Smithsonian Institution may request artifacts. Eligible external organizations, including museums, schools, universities, libraries and planetariums, may request artifacts the following 21 days. After the screening period closes, and at the completion of the request process, organizations will be notified about the status of their request.

Artifacts will be released incrementally when they no longer are needed by NASA and in accordance with export control laws and regulations. Artifacts are provided free of charge; however, requesting organizations must pay for shipping and any special handling costs.

For information about NASA’s space shuttle transition and artifacts, visit http://www.nasa.gov/transit.

Please email any questions about this opportunity to Tony Springer at Tony(Springer@nasa.gov.

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2011 SPHERES Zero Robotics Challenge

NASA, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, and MIT’s Space Systems Laboratory are offering high school students the opportunity to design experiments that will be tested in space.

The 2011 Zero Robotics challenge is a continuation and expansion of a science, technology, engineering and mathematics education program using bowling ball-sized spherical satellites aboard the International Space Station.

The Synchronized Position Hold, Engage, Reorient, Experimental Satellites, or SPHERES, are used inside the station to test maneuvers for spacecraft performing autonomous rendezvous and docking. The three satellites that make up SPHERES fly in formation inside the station’s cabin. Each is self-contained with power, propulsion, computing and navigation equipment. Test results support satellite servicing, vehicle assembly and spacecraft that fly in formation.

The SPHERES Zero Robotics Challenge requires high school student teams to write their own algorithm to fly the satellites in the station. Teams must register before Sept. 5, 2011, at http://zerorobotics.mit.edu/.

Entries will be evaluated using simulations. Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass., will host a ground test 2D competition in October. Two elimination rounds in the 3D online simulation will be held in November. The top 27 teams will have their code sent to the station, where an astronaut will program the SPHERES satellites to run their tests.

The Zero Robotics challenge, facilitated by MIT, continues the STEM focus of the SPHERES program. The 2011 challenge expands on a pilot program performed in 2009 and 2010. By making the benefits and resources of the space program tangible to high school students, Zero Robotics is designed to inspire future scientists and engineers. Students will have the opportunity to push their limits and develop skills in STEM. This program builds critical engineering skills for students such as problem solving, design thought process, operations training, team work and presentation skills.

MIT’s Space Systems Laboratory developed SPHERES in 2006 to provide DARPA, NASA and other researchers with a long-term test bed for validating technologies critical to the operation of future satellites, docking missions and satellite autonomous maneuvers. The satellites provide opportunities to test a wide range of hardware and software at an affordable cost.

For additional information about NASA and MIT’s Zero Robotics program, visit http://go.nasa.gov/zero-robotics.

For additional information about DARPA, visit http://www.darpa.mil.

Please e-mail any questions about this opportunity to Jason Crusan at Jason.Crusan@nasa.gov.
NASA Kids’ Club Games and Activities

Have you visited the NASA Kids’ Club recently? Games and activities have been added just in time for summer!

Check out the new “Why Do We Explore?” storybook. Kids can read this animated online story about exploration or have it read aloud to them as they follow along.

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forkids/kidsclub/flash/clubhouse/Why_Do_We_Explore.html

Children can let their creativity shine with the “Color NASA” activity. This interactive coloring book features pictures of plants, birds and animals that live on NASA centers across the U.S.

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forkids/kidsclub/flash/clubhouse/Color_NASA.html

Are your kids hungry for a new game to play? The “Space Lunch” game helps them learn about nutrition and healthy eating habits as they hunt for matching food groups.

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forkids/kidsclub/flash/clubhouse/Space_Lunch.html

Looking for a fun hands-on activity for a summer afternoon? Check out the “Let’s Fly Away” activity. Children can interact online with an aircraft-covered dodecahedron. Or, print out the activity pages to learn about 12 different aircraft and build their own 3-D dodecahedron!

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forkids/kidsclub/flash/clubhouse/Lets_Fly_Away.html

Ever wonder how much you’d weigh on other planets and moons? Play the “Astro-Matic 3000” game to find out!

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forkids/kidsclub/flash/clubhouse/Astro-Matic_3000.html

Do you know a child who likes puzzles? Check out the “Put It Together” game to solve puzzles of NASA images. Choose from four different levels of difficulty.

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forkids/kidsclub/flash/clubhouse/Put_It_Together.html

For these fun activities and more, visit http://www.nasa.gov/kidsclub.

Greenhouse Gas Attack

Link: http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/greenhouse-gas-attack

Greenhouse Gas Attack is a new game on The Space Place that gives everyone a chance to slow down global warming—at least in the digital world. Brightly colored blocks represent greenhouse gases. They allow sunlight in, but do not allow heat out. You wield a bouncing greenhouse-gas-blasting ball to knock out some of the gas blocks so that some of the heat can escape. If you do a good job, Earth’s temperature stays in a healthy range. If you don’t get rid of enough greenhouse gas blocks, Earth gets too hot and you lose. Yellow “light balls” entering from the sky and red “heat balls” bouncing back from the ground demonstrate the greenhouse effect. This is one opportunity to get things under control!
New NASA Website Available for Kids

Two award-winning kids websites have join forces to further inspire a new generation of explorers.

NASAScience Kids and SpacePlace have combined to provide several new Web features with interactive graphic designs, in addition to having extensive rich science and technology content of the “old” SpacePlace -- with over 50 NASA science missions -- and content from NASAScience Kids. These sites offer the best of NASA material for elementary school students.

The site includes over 300 separate modules available in English and Spanish. Modules feature categories related to Space, Earth, Sun, Solar System, People and Technology, Parents and Teachers. Information mirrors the missions of the NASA’s Science Mission Directorate, as well as the agency’s commitment to education and public engagement.

The menus are filterable on subject or type of activity, and searches produce customized menus. Educational and compelling games have been reframed, images and illustrations are enlargeable with a mouse click, and videos run seamlessly within the page. All pages are printer friendly, with a special formatting algorithm that appropriately arranges headings, sidebars, and images.

The site is available at http://spaceplace.nasa.gov.

No Boundaries Project

Link: http://www.usatodayeducate.com/nasa/

Welcome to the “No Boundaries” project, developed by NASA and USA TODAY Education. No Boundaries helps students explore careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), while learning about NASA – the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Working at NASA is like exploring space. If you have the curiosity, determination and problem-solving skills, the opportunities are many.

The goals of NASA Education are to develop a workforce of the future; attract and retain students in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM); and find the best and the brightest young people. All students should know that working at NASA in the STEM fields is an achievable goal; however, it requires that students be educated, curious, creative and resourceful.

This project will introduce students to the limitless opportunities at NASA and hopefully, encourage them to work toward the STEM careers that are vital to the growth and economic security of the country. For this project, teachers will assign student groups of four one of the STEM fields. (Individuals or groups who want to take part in the competition outside the classroom are welcome to do so. But for the sake of clarity, these instructions will assume that a student group is the participating party.) Each group will then use graphic organizers and links on the No Boundaries website to research one NASA career in their assigned field. Next, individual groups will develop and present a project (podcast, newspaper, song, artwork, etc.) that markets their career to teens.

After presenting their work to peers, groups are encouraged to enter their project in the No Boundaries National Competition.

NASA Career Page

Link: http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/careers-index.html

Use this page as a starting point to learn about jobs at NASA. Meet scientists, technical experts, engineers, mathematicians, physicists, accountants, attorneys, astronauts, educators, pilots, astronomers and experts in many other fields.

Career information on this page includes the following:

- Opportunities for students to intern at NASA
- Programs for visiting faculty
- Profiles of NASA employees
- Descriptions of jobs at NASA
- Posters and resources with career information
- Descriptions of NASA education programs
- Career pages with content sorted by grade levels.

http://www.nasarealworldinworld.org/
Grants and Opportunities...

Grant Alert of the Week - Up to $250K to help disadvantaged students
Grant articles are from eSchoolnews website
Link: http://tinyurl.com/6fnz82m

The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation is offering up to $250K in grants to help disadvantaged students. The foundation strives to improve community education in order to provide a “pathway out of poverty.” They hope to achieve this goal by advancing systemic changes that improve educational policies and practices, particularly for children and families living in low-income communities. The program has three main priorities: to support community-driven reform, help vulnerable youth, and provide opportunities to learn beyond the classroom.

For more information and to see if you are eligible, please visit the foundation’s website.

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Classroom Technology Grant Program for PoleVault®, WallVault® and VoiceLift®
Link: http://www.extron.com/k12/polevaultgrant.aspx

From their webpage: The Extron Classroom AV System Grant Program provides increased visibility to K-12 educational technology projects by supplying selected pilot classrooms with advanced audio/video solutions. This grant program brings together Students, Teachers, Educators, Integrators, and Extron. It provides an experience with education technology that will boost students’ interest and achievement in the classroom, as well as help prepare them for the workplace. The goal of the pilot classroom is to demonstrate the ease-of-use and benefits of Extron classroom AV technology to students, teachers and administrators. The grant award includes installation of an Extron Classroom AV system and complete training. This grant is ongoing. For information on how to apply see their website.

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Video Book Reports could Win you a Library Makeover from Acer

Deadline: July 15, 2011

From their website: Technology can help bring excitement and creativity to the traditional book report while still displaying students understanding of reading. This contest aims to marry traditional reading curriculum strategies with 21st Century skills in an attempt to make book reports and reading more interactive, fun and engaging for young learners.

The Acer Video Book Report contest also provides an opportunity to educators to re-think the standard book report by producing videos that creatively illustrate the students’ comprehension of the book, along with teaching collaborative and critical thinking skills.

How to Submit?
• Select a book from one of the two literary categories
  a) Fiction     b) Non-Fiction
• Help your students create a video to share their favorite book.
• Submit the YouTube/online URL for a chance to win:
  2. One educator conference pass and hotel accommodations for the 32nd Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA) annual conference to be held in Austin, TX from February 6-10, 2012.
  3. Tablet PCs will also be customized “sponsored by the winning student(s) name(s)’, Acer and Microsoft.
• Sign and submit the Student Release Form by the deadline, July 15, 2011

There will be two winners—one from each category: fiction and non-fiction. Public voting will choose a winner from 10 finalists in each category. So select a book, find a video camera and let the creativity take over!
Storyline Online Welcomes The Rainbow Fish by Kim Iverson

Link: http://storylineonline.net

Storyline Online has added a new book to their collection, The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister. This is the story of a beautiful fish that experiences the joy and friendship that comes from sharing. Take your students on an ocean adventure with Ernest Borgnine as he reads this award winning tale on Storyline Online.

Thinkfinity Partners up with The Electric Company by Kim Iverson

Link: http://thinkfinity.org/electric-company

Verizon's Thinkfinity has partnered up with The Electric Company in bringing teachers and parents resources to teach their students and children literacy skills. The Electric Company has designed videos, games, activity sheets, and lesson plans that support multiple learning objectives. These multimedia materials teach such concepts as learning about silent e, the two sounds of g, and the consonant digraph th. All these materials are completely free and can be used to support an entire class or an individual student. Just go to Verizon's Thinkfinity and play around to see how you could enhance your literacy lessons with help from The Electric Company.

Teach What You Know and Learn What You Don’t with Sophia.org by Jana Keller

Link: http://sophia.org

Sophia.org is a good way to connect learners, teachers, experts, and parents. Sophia.org provides the academic community the opportunity for everyone to have access to learning that surrounds and supports the traditional classroom. Sophia.org uses creativity and variety in the way it teaches so that everyone can learn in a way that makes the most sense to them.

The website is very pertinent to educators because Sophia.org is a place where anyone can share anything that they know about educational material. Whether you are an educator, tutor, professor, parent, or subject expert, Sophia.org makes it so easy for all to share the knowledge that they may have to share with others.

Sophia.org is a wonderful place for learners looking for academic assistance with a specific topic, because it provides learners with a deeper understanding of a particular subject. It is also a great opportunity to increase students overall knowledge.

Parents may also be interested in becoming familiar with Sophia.org if they want to play an active role in their children's education. It is a good way for parents to brush up on the things that they used to know, so they may be better prepared to help their children learn.

Performing Arts in Art from website

Link: http://www.getty.edu/education/teachers/classroom_resources/curricula/performing_arts/

From their website: The Performing Arts in Art curriculum explores works of art in the J. Paul Getty Museum's collection that depict subjects related to music, dance, theater, and storytelling. This interdisciplinary curriculum engages students in diverse topics in the disciplines of visual art, performing arts, history, and language arts. A variety of visual, musical, kinesthetic, and linguistic activities address the multiple ways in which students learn and provide new lenses for exploring historical events, mythological stories, and artistic traditions.

Lessons in this curriculum address such questions as: How have the roles of performing and visual artists within society changed over time? How have musicians, actors, dancers, and storytellers been depicted in works of art, and what do such depictions reveal about the historical eras in which they were made? How do works of art convey the nuances of stories that have been passed down through oral tradition since the time of antiquity? How do visual artists convey movement and drama in their works?

The curriculum covers four themes: the art and accessibility of music, the art and ancient tradition of storytelling, the art and depiction of dance, and the art and influence of theatre.

Each theme is divided into beginning, intermediate, and advanced level activities that act as scaffolds for step-by-step learning while following the state and national standards. Visual art and drama teachers are encouraged to collaborate when implementing these lessons in order to share resources and expertise.
**Speech Therapy Online** by Amy Lott

Link: [http://www.connectionslearning.com](http://www.connectionslearning.com)

As internet access grows at an alarming rate, it feels as if the world in which we live is shrinking and shrinking. As smart phones and iPods find their way into the hands of younger and younger children we need to make sure to use this technology for good educational purposes.

Keeping on top of technology can be a daunting task, but the rewards can be worth it for speech therapy. Speech Language therapists are in short supply in many school districts. Having a speech language therapist can be expensive and it can be hard for rural districts where therapists would charge for travel time between schools. This is where technology and speech language therapy converge to benefit from one another.

Connections Academy, an online provider of K-12 curriculum has been offering online speech therapy to students for the past two years. As long as you have the necessary set up equipment including LiveLesson (a web-conferencing technology), webcams, and headsets you’re on your way to your first therapy session. Using the LiveLesson program, therapist and client are able to interact in real-time.

There is a lot of flexibility to when and where the therapy session occurs. It can be at the child’s home or at school. The perks to having the session at home are that it would increase the involvement of parents in their child’s therapy. It could also help the student feel more comfortable and be able to perform better.

All of the Speech Language therapists employed through Connections Academy are fully certified in the specific state in which they work and through ASHA (American Speech Hearing Association). To find out more about online speech therapy you can visit Connections Academy at their website [www.connectionslearning.com](http://www.connectionslearning.com).

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**The National Jukebox**

Written by Zena Redden

Link: [http://www.loc.gov/jukebox/](http://www.loc.gov/jukebox/)

The Library of Congress and Sony Music Entertainment have joined together to create the National Jukebox. This is an online source with over 3 million music and spoken-word recordings available to the public for free.


The Jukebox streams recordings from as long ago as 1901. The collection includes music from classic musicians such as Enrico Caruso and Fritz Kreisler, the John Philip Sousa Band, and even speeches given by President Teddy Roosevelt.

In an interview with eSchool News, the associate dean of the University of Southern California’s Thornton School of Music, Chris Sampson, said, “There are so many angles from the academic perspective of how this would be a resource. Just in my small corner of the universe of teaching songwriting, the ability to be able to go to the source so students can see the tradition of American music and American songwriting… is going to be enormous. To me, that’s just gold.”

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**eduTecher** by Kim Iverson

Link: [http://www.edutecher.net](http://www.edutecher.net)

There are thousands of web resources out in the world. You hear and read about them all the time from newsletters like this one, from colleagues, and your individual connections.

The only way to remember these are to keep a journal or spreadsheet with them all listed. Once you have your organization method together you then have to search through them to find what you really want and sometimes you find out that you don’t have what you need.

**Edutecher.net** is a site directed toward making this resource mess a little clearer. Through eduTecher you are able to explore many valuable web resources through searching by keyword, age, subject, or any combination of the aforementioned. Once you have found a resource you would like to remember instead of writing it down or adding it to that spreadsheet of yours, you can save the resource by adding it to your “backpack” along with any personal notes. This “backpack” can be accessed and edited by logging into edutecher.net at any time.

What happens when eduTecher doesn’t have your favorite web resource though? Well, then it’s time for you to contribute that link. Anyone with an account can contribute links to help build up eduTecher even more just by following a simple submission process.

To add another layer to their site eduTecher has provided a way for their users to communicate with each other. There is the opportunity to search for other users in your same content area. Once found, you can follow these people through their eduTecher blog or use the online chat to communicate with them.

EduTecher is a great site to be able to find, manage, and contribute web resources. Their site is equipped with video tutorials to help you use their easy to navigate site, and is completely free to use. If your computer is becoming less of the way you use the web it is also available as an app at the App Store. So log on to eduTecher.net and see how you can begin to manage your own resource collection.
The UEN website has so many resources to access. UEN’s purpose is to help teachers, but if teachers are lost on the website then their purpose is not fulfilled. So for your convenience, there are four tutorials that are simple, short and to the point to give you an introduction and get you started efficiently using the UEN website. The first tutorial starts with a basic intro about logging into the website to get full access to their resources. Next, how to best utilize UEN’s “power search” tool to most effectively get the results you are looking for. The third video highlights the Public Resources that teachers can use on blogs, websites or other media that is educational, yet with no copyrights that would become potentially problematic. And last, for teachers with the need or desire, it shows how to access many of these video resources with closed captions (which are available for Quick Time Player or Apple OS devices). So whether you are new to the UEN website or not, taking a quick minute to make sure you know the basics of this website can help improve your time effectiveness in preparing lesson plans.

Shannon Holden, who has been a high school and middle school teacher and administrator for 20 years gives free webinars for new teachers that give them suggestions and resources to battle the ever mounting pressure to be at a higher standard sooner. Some of the subjects covered are:

• Learn ways to "set the tone" for a productive year of student learning.
• Develop a repertoire of instructional strategies that result in higher levels of student engagement and achievement.
• Establish themselves as the “authority figure” in the classroom.
• Deal with students and parents who try to question their authority.
• Discover resources that they can turn to for assistance when necessary.
• Develop techniques to increase communication and build relationships with students, parents, veteran teachers, administrators, and school support staff.
• Access resources that will help them prepare students for standardized tests.

Jamendo by Kateri Vernon

Tired of all the music on your iPod, Jamendo can revamp your playlist with thousands of new songs. Jamendo is the world’s largest platform for free and legal music downloads. Here is how it works. Artists upload their music under Creative Commons licenses and you download them to your computer completely free with a click of the mouse. The Creative Commons license enables musicians to give away their music for free while still maintaining rights to their music. Artists can choose to authorize certain uses of their music, for example they can authorize commercial uses. Artists are able to get music to listeners in an easy and efficient way without giving up all copyright privileges. Although the music is completely free to download and listen to artists are also able to make a little money through ad revenue sharing and commercial partnerships. If you are generous and love a certain band, then feel free to donate money to their cause if you like.

Jamendo is easy to use, simply go to www.jamendo.com and create a free account. Once you verify your account through an email link start browsing the 90,000 music titles Jamendo has. I found it easiest to browse by ‘tags’, which sorts the songs by genre. You can also browse by album or artist, but it might be hard to find stuff you like if you do not already know what you are looking for so stick with ‘tags’. Try also to find new music by listening to the pre-selected ‘top 100 tracks’ or ‘top 100 collector’s items’. If you find too many search results try narrowing the search by ‘tag’, country, and order the results by popularity to find the really good music! I instantly found some great country music that I loved on Jamendo! Once you find something you like simply download it to your computer and keep looking for more. Jamendo even makes it easy to share your favorite track on twitter or facebook. Look Jamendo up and try it out, everything is free so you aren’t out a dime while still loading your iPod with tons of new music!
Windows 7 Speech Recognition by Chelsie Jackson

If you have Windows 7 you have a free, easy way to use the speech recognition program. Speech recognition doesn’t always have to be associated with dictating letters, e-mails or documents (which it does fabulously). It can also be used to open files, start programs, switch tabs and many other functions you would typically use a mouse for. This feature keeps your hands free but your computer going. The tutorial is quite long and cumbersome but if you can persevere through the whole thing you are set to go and have very few questions if you can retain all of the information. But never fear, if you can’t remember all the commands and options you have in this innovative program, you can always ask the computer what to say and it brings up a detailed list of commands or prompts and their outcomes. This program also learns the more you use it. After only a few hours of consistent use the computer rarely repeats mistakes you have corrected it on and it knows and saves your accent and way of speaking so it is more effective and efficient.

Dictation Pro by Chelsie Jackson


Dictation Pro : How about having someone listening to your every word and taking notes? Wouldn’t that be nice? It’s so much easier to dictate a letter than to type it and much faster too. Preparing letters, e-mails, or any other computer generated document can be done by simply speaking into your microphone. You can input text three times faster by speaking than typing. You can format, delete, or copy words and phrases using speech commands.

Dictation pro is a free download that anyone can use, the program learns from its mistakes so the more you use it the more accurate its typing becomes. It will probably take about a day of using it consistently to get the commands down and for the program to get used to your voice and accent. It comes with its own program, very similar to a word document and easy to transfer to other typing programs to do extra editing as needed.

jMemorize by Chelsie Jackson

Link: http://www.schoolforge.net/education-software/educational-edutainment/jmemorize

jMemorize is a free open-source Java application for use in your classroom or for a resource that you can recommend for home use. You can use this application for any subject that needs quick and efficient memorization. With this application you can make your own flash cards in an easy to use program, tailoring them to your needs and desires and those of your students. Then when you have created a deck of flash cards for your students, jMemorize quizzes their knowledge and tracks their progress for your to look at and evaluate where each student needs help.
IOS Apps for all Ages by Amy Lott


My Coloring Book Free - Perfect for entertaining young children in the car, at church, or anywhere they need to be quiet. No need to worry about losing crayons or having crayon marks all over the walls. The touch screen is easy to use for all ages.

AlphaBaby Free - This simple app is great for preschoolers to learn their alphabet. Click on letters to hear how the letter sounds. You can even record your own voice or let the preschooer use their voice to listen to. Upload your own photos from your camera or library to use.

PBS KIDS Video for iPad - You can be sure your children will get quality educational entertainment when you use this app. All content is curriculum-based. There are over 1,000 videos to watch with new videos introduced every week. Your child will learn reading, science, math and more.

10,500+ Cool Facts - What better way to be the center of attention in the circle by knowing 10,513 new cool facts? All you have to do is shake the iPad to move on to the next cool fact.

Planets - This is a great app for any aspiring astronomer. With the newest version of Planets you have access to 3D and 2D views of the sky. The Sky 3D view uses a compass & gyroscope to produce a planetarium style view of the sky and the Sky 2D view auto flips East/West when held overhead making it easy to locate planets. With over 5 million downloads this app is very popular. Most of the reviews I read liked this app so much they thought it should cost money!

Math Drills Lite - Students will learn basic math skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. There are plenty of helpful ways to explore solutions to problems using number lines, wooden blocks, etc. If you upgrade from the free version there is a bounteous amount of upgrades in the full version including working with up to ten students, test taking ability, more drills, and track progress with graphs.

GeoBee Challenge HD by National Geographic - The summer is a long time to forget all that you learned during the school year. Use this app on long summer road trips to keep the mind sharp and brushed up on Geography! Grap this app now because for a limited time this app is free on iTunes.

Quick Graph - A great option if you are looking for a graphing calculator to help you do some high school calculus. This app is loaded with functions and features to keep you busy for a long while. My favorite part is being able to have a 3D view of the graph!

3D Brain - There are 29 diagrams to rotate and zoom in and out on. With each diagram discover how the brain works, what each lopes function is, what some disorders of the brain are, and much much more!

Opera Mini - Opera Mini has been the iPhone browser of choice for many since it launched, promising to be the fastest, most cost-efficient web-browsing experience for your iOS device today. Its recent update made it a universal application delivering all its Opera goodness to the iPad.
iPad vs. Laptop by Kateri Vernon

With technology consistently becoming more and more advanced there is an increased pressure to purchase and invest in the newest technological hit. As a poor college student I have had to weigh out pros and cons of such devices because technology isn't cheap. One particular question I hear often is, “should I invest in an iPad or look into buying a laptop?” I have searched and found lists of pros and cons that may help your decision making process go a bit more smoothly.

Pros of an iPad

The iPad does just about everything as far as entertainment goes, from games and videos to books and music. The iPad’s 9.7 inch display provides considerable screen real estate to watch movies, look at photos, and play games.

The iPad weighs 1.5 pounds and has an incredible battery life for only being a half-inch thick - This makes it definitely more portable than a regular laptop, and has up to seven hours of battery life.

The price and data plan for an iPad are great deals- iPads can range from prices of $499 dollars to $1000 depending on what you purchase. Netbook users with a data plan are paying $60 for 5GB per month plans. The iPads plan gives you a choice between $14.99 per month for a 250GB and $29.99 for unlimited data.

As of a year or so ago, the iPad can multitask - you can easily and quickly switch between a number of applications including e-mail, calendar, and iWorks. For example, the iPad can have a browser window open at the same you are typing a document or working on a spreadsheet. So if you are leaning towards productivity, the iPad probably is a good investment.

With the introduction of the iPad 2, has a webcam. Now, you can Skype, use Apple’s FaceTime or other means of visual communication with long distance family and friends.

Cons of an iPad

The iPad has a screen keyboard but not a full keyboard. Of course, the touch keyboard is more compact than a regular size keyboard. However, if you are an fast keyboard typist it can get tricky. Typing at fast rates makes it difficult for the touch screen to process all the letters. Also, there is little tactile feedback, and that takes getting used to. Many iPad cases include a bluetooth keyboard for those that do a lot of touch typing.

I hope next generation iPads come with USB connections so I can save work, and connect to USB devices.

Both laptop and iPad are wonderful inventions, with tablets evolving more power and features each year. I believe tablets will eventually replace laptops and netbooks altogether.
Short Throw Projectors for Classrooms by Amy Lott

According to ProjectorCentral.com the five most popular classroom short throw projectors under $1000 are:

1. NEC NP-M300XS (5stars)
2. Epson PowerLite 905 (5stars)
3. NEC NP-M300X (5stars)
4. NEC NP216 (5stars)
5. Casio XJ-A130 (3.5stars)

I took some time to compare and contrast these various models and highlight some of the best features they have to offer.

**NEC NP-M300 XS:** This short throw projector is definitely the best bang for your buck. It advertises a whopping 3,000 lumens, but other testing revealed as much as 3,710 lumens making this projector really bright! This projector will connect to computers and DVD players. It is able to display a 60” image on the screen from as little as 1.9 feet away and even small fonts are easy to read from edge to edge. It is small enough to mount on the ceiling or just keep on a cart. The lamp is reported to last 4,000 hours in Normal mode, guaranteeing you won’t be spending all your funds buying replacement bulbs.

**Epson PowerLite 905:** The PowerLite 905 is very comparable to the NP-M300XS but is designed to be cart mounted and wheeled from classroom to classroom. It has similar lumens with a tested high of 3,170 lumens. The PowerLite 905 can project a 100” diagonal image from 9 feet away. It is able to connect to a whole slew of video, audio, and digital connectors making it pretty versatile and able to project most anything you can think to project through it. It offers an unheard of 16-watt speaker for audio and a microphone jack. The lamp life is even slightly better at 5,000 hours.

**NEC NP-M300X:** This model is just somewhat watered down from the NEC NP-M300XS model. It weighs in at 6.4 lbs. which doesn’t make it hard to transport back and forth without too much effort. It is rated at 3,000 lumens. It has a comparatively excellent image quality for data and video. Also comparable with the two previous models, it has great connectivity making it possible to pull up your information from various sources. You probably wouldn’t use this projector at the movie theatre, but for classroom use it is a great value.

**NEC NP216:** This projector is rated at 2,500 lumens and was tested to run a little below that standard by the people at ProjectorCentral.com. For an image of 100” the NP216 has to be at least 14.5 feet away, which is further away than previous models mentioned but nevertheless if you have the room space and not the money to fork out, then the NP216 might be a great option. The lamp life is measured at 3,500-5,000 hours before it needs to be replaced. A reported con is the loud fan noise compared with other similar models. You would want to make sure it has the connections you will need before investing in this projector, but at nearly half the price it is a good option to keep on the list.

**Casio XJ-A130:** This projector is the lightest of all the ones considered, weighing in at an even 5 pounds. The Casio uses a different light source than the others which allows it to drop some of the weight. The LED light source is less bright and crisp than the other projectors. But it has other qualities to offer such as an unprecedented 20,000 hour lamp, which is far above any of its competitors. Small and compact with such a long lamp life put this projector in the running for consideration.

All said and done, you can find a great short throw projector for any small classroom nowadays. The trick is to get the necessary funds and make sure the model you plan on purchasing has the connections that you are expecting to use in the classroom.
Summer Tutorial Learning Opportunities

Instructure Canvas Tutorials

Microsoft Word 2010 Tutorials

Microsoft Excel 2010 Tutorials

Microsoft PowerPoint 2010 Tutorials

Photoshop Killer Tips
Get your daily video dose of the coolest Adobe Photoshop tips, timesaving shortcuts, workarounds, and undocumented tricks.
http://kelbytv.com/photoshopkillertips/

Photoshop User TV
The weekly Photoshop TV show featuring “The Photoshop Guys” Scott Kelby, Dave Cross and Matt Kloskowski. Presented by the National Association of Photoshop Professionals (NAPP).
http://kelbytv.com/photoshopusertv.aspx

New! PBS LearningMedia
Link: http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/

PBS LearningMedia is a dynamic platform offering the best of public media content and produced specifically for PreK-16 teachers. With free access to over 14,000 high-quality resources tied to national standards, teachers can download, save and share exactly what they need for an inspired classroom experience.

PBS LearningMedia offers districts and states an affordable solution designed for seamless media integration and customization. Features include state standards correlations, student management tools, analytics, online professional development, staff training and more. Meet the local needs of teachers through an unprecedented opportunity to customize the PBS LearningMedia experience.

For more information, email LearningMedia@pbs.org.
Hi Speed Wireless Networks Using Light Bulbs

What if every light bulb in the world could also transmit data? At TEDGlobal, Harald Haas demonstrates, for the first time, a device that could do exactly that. By flickering the light from a single LED, a change too quick for the human eye to detect, he can transmit far more data than a cellular tower -- and do it in a way that’s more efficient, secure and widespread.

Watch this TEDTalk at: http://www.ted.com/talks/harald_haas_wireless_data_from_every_light_bulb.html

ZDNet posted an article about this new technology...

In it, they said, “The researchers say they’ve achieved a transfer data rate of 100 megabits per second (Mbit/s) without any losses, using LEDs in the ceiling that light up more than ten square meters (90 square feet). This area also marks the radius in which the receiver — a simple photo diode on the laptop — can be placed before it is out of range.

In lab tests, the team pushed speeds even further using red-blue-green-white light LEDs. Those transmitted data at a blistering 800 Mbit/s, setting a record for VLC or visible light communication."

How about that? Light your room, and have high speed network at the same time!

Donors Choose: Get Your Classroom Wish Funded

Link: http://www.donorschoose.org/teachers

DonorsChoose.org wants to help your classroom, and especially the children in your classroom, to have a better education experience by helping you get a donor to fund your classroom project. As the name suggests, the donors choose among the projects listed and decide which project they would like to support. Once a donor is found, the materials are delivered directly to the school. In return, you submit photos of the project and mail thank-you cards authored by your students to the project’s donor.

It is important for you, the classroom teacher, to stay in touch once you submit a project. Once a project is funded you will need to verify that you still need the project and make sure the mailing address is correct. As you work on the project it’s important to keep the donor up-to-date on the project’s progress. By doing this the donor feels they are contributing to a worthy cause and your classroom is showing gratitude.

To learn more about how to submit a project for your classroom visit the link above and learn the basics by taking the tutorial. You will be one step closer to helping your class reach their full potential!

The Next Killer App for Educators?

by Nathan Smith, Director of Technology, College of Education & Human Services, USU

OK, all you programmers out there - here’s my wish for the next tablet app for educators. How about an app that functions as a mobile interactive whiteboard? It can wirelessly connect to the classroom projector and sound system. It can run and project all my apps. It can use the built-in cameras as a document camera system. I can use a stylus or my finger to add notes, diagrams, or other useful information - which then can be saved as files my students can access online. In other words, it will let me do everything my interactive whiteboard software and document camera allows me to do - but free me to move around the room, let students input information, and more.
Free, Powerful Video Converter for Mac

If you visit the App Store on your Macintosh, you’ll see a new, free program that has quickly risen to the number one spot - Smart Converter.

Smart Converter actually analyzes your video file before beginning the conversion process, and then only converts what is needed to fit the specific needs of the device you’ve chosen to convert to. For example, I converted a 2 hour .MP4 video into a Windows .WMV video file in less than one minute. If everything needs reconverted, the time will be longer. Even so, it seems to convert faster than most other video conversion tools that I’ve used.

I like the fact that it has so many conversion options. You can convert for Apple TV, iPad, iPhone or iPod Touch, Android Tablet, Android Phone, Google TV, iPod Classic, Quicktime, Sony PSP, Sony Playstation, Sony Barvia TV, XBox 360, Windows Media Video (WMV), or AAC and MP3 audio only formats (a quick way to convert your video to an audio only file.)

I own a Sony Network Media Player, and this program has successfully converted several videos that I couldn’t previously play on the player.

Smart Converter is extremely simple to use. You just choose the device which you need a video converted for, then drag and drop the movie file you wish to convert in the designated area of the app, click the convert button, and let it do its work. Afterward, the convert button changes to a show converted file button, which you click, and it will open the Smart Converter folder for you. Then you just copy that file to the device you converted it for.

The company that produced this will be creating a “Pro” version for sale soon. They also make a product, called Jacksta, that allows you to save any video or audio on over a hundred thousand websites. Jacksta retails for $50. If you have ever needed to convert video, I highly recommend this new, free product. Visit Shedworx to see their other products - http://www.shedworx.com/

Translate Word Documents to Other Languages!

Since Office 2003, Microsoft Word has had a translation feature - but many don’t know about it. This tool would be particularly useful in education when working with foreign language (ESL) speaking students, parents, and associates.

To translate a Word document to another language (Windows Users):

You can translate text written in a different language, such as phrases or paragraphs, individual words (by using the Mini Translator), or translate your whole file with Microsoft Office 2010. To translate text into some languages, you might also have to satisfy certain operating system requirements for them – right-to-left languages need specific support, for example.

Please note that the Translate command is only available in the following Microsoft Office programs: Word, Outlook, OneNote, PowerPoint, Publisher, Excel and Visio.

You can also create a document in one language, and then use a machine translation service to translate it to a different language.

 Translate a whole file

You can have a whole file translated by a computer and displayed in an Internet browser. When you choose this kind of translation, the content in your file is sent over the Internet to a service provider.

This uses machine translation, which is helpful for conveying the basic subject matter of the content and for confirming whether the content is relevant to you. For important or sensitive files, human translation is recommended, because machine translation might not preserve the full meaning and tone of the text.

1. In the file that you want translated, on the Review tab, in the Language group, click Translate.
2. Click Choose Translation Language.
3. Under Choose document translation languages click the Translate from and Translate to languages that you want, and then click OK.
5. Click Translate Document. The From and To languages that you selected will be listed.
6. Click Send.

A browser instance opens with your file in both the original language and translated into the language that you selected.

If this is the first time you have used translation services, click OK to install the bilingual dictionaries and enable the translation service through the Research pane. You can also see which bilingual dictionaries and machine translation services you have enabled by clicking the Translation options link in the Research pane.

Translate selected text

You can translate a phrase, sentence, or paragraph into several selected language pairs in the following Microsoft Office programs: Excel, One-
Note, Outlook, PowerPoint, Publisher, Visio, and Word. The translations are shown in the Research pane unless you use the Mini Translator.

1. Right-click anywhere in your file and select Translate from the menu to open the Research pane. You can also access the Research pane from the Review tab by clicking Research in the Proofing group.

2. In the Research pane, in the All Reference Books list, click Translation.

3. Do one of the following:
   • To translate a specific word, press ALT, and then click a word. The results appear in the Research pane under Translation. If you have the Mini Translator turned on, you can also point to the word that you want translated and the Mini Translator displays the translation. For more information about the Mini Translator, see See translations with the Mini Translator.
   • To translate a short phrase, select the words, press ALT, and then click the selection. The results appear in the Research pane under Translation.
   • To translate a word or phrase, type the word or phrase in the Search for box, and then click Start Searching.

NOTES
• If this is the first time you have used translation services, click OK to install the bilingual dictionaries and enable the translation service through the Research pane.
• You can also which bilingual dictionaries and machine translation services you have enabled by clicking the Translation options link in the Research pane.
• To change the languages that are used for translation, in the Research pane, under Translation, select the languages that you want to translate from and to. For example, to translate English to French, click English (U.S.) in the From list and French (France) in the To list.
• To customize which resources are used for translation, click Translation options, and then select the options that you want.

See translations with the Mini Translator
The Mini Translator displays the translation of one word as you point at it with your cursor. You can also copy the translated text to the Clipboard, paste it into another document, or play a pronunciation of the translated word.
   • On the Review tab, in the Language group, click Translate, and then click Mini Translator.
   • Point to a word or phrase that you want translated with your mouse.

If the Mini Translator is not turned on, click the Mini Translator button to turn it on. For more information, see See translations with the Mini Translator.

For Macintosh Office users:
You can use the Reference Tools to translate up to 400 words at a time.

Important: Office must be able to connect to the Internet to use Reference Tools. The first time you use Reference Tools you are asked to Click here to allow access to online Reference Tools.

1) In your document, select the text that you want to translate.
2) On the View menu, click Reference Tools.
3) Open the Translation panel.
4) On the From pop-up menu, select the language that the text is currently in.
5) On the To pop-up menu, select the language that you want the text to be translated to.

Notes: If you want to translate the entire document, in the box under the To pop-up menu, click Translate this document. The text is sent to the Microsoft Translator service over the Internet. To expand the window, drag the resize handle under the Translation window.

View YouTube Demos of Word Translation:
Link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=at2an6m56Rw&feature=related
Link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=meZy-e5esWw&feature=related

Create a Time Lapse of Your PC's Desktop
Link: http://appnimi.com/softwares/8-desktop-utilities/22-auto-screen-capture

Appnimi Auto Screen Capture lets you capture screenshots of your desktop at regular intervals of time automatically. It is a very useful utility when you would like to keep a record of whatever you had been doing over the time. It helps in analysing the time spent on a particular task.

It is free and easy to use. It supports Windows 98, ME, NT, 2000, XP, 2003, Vista and Windows 7. You can capture screenshots at regular intervals, and you can set the time span for which the screenshots are to be taken. The exe in the installation directory is portable. With an easy-to-use GUI the user can set the parameters easily before starting the screen capture.
Hello America. Spotify here.

The award-winning music service that’s taken Europe by storm has now come to U.S. shores. Millions of tracks ready to play instantly, on your computer and your phone.

Any track, any time, anywhere. And it’s free!

New Music Resources


We’ve enjoyed Pandora, and Last.FM - radio station-like internet sites that play music selections based on an artist, style, or song we enjoy. They’re wonderful - but they pick the music you get to listen to.

Would you like to be able to pick and make a playlist of specific songs and music you’d like to hear? Are you looking for a particular song or artist? A new breed of internet sites have become available that do just that. Spotify, one of these sites, is now inviting U.S. citizens to enjoy it’s services (there’s both a free and paid version). You can listen to specific songs or entire albums of your favorite artists. Millions of selections are available. I got my invitation to join in July - and I really enjoy the service. Another great site to try out is Grooveshark - http://grooveshark.com

Free Online Color Scheme Designer

Link: http://colorschemedesigner.com

Here’s a handy tool that let’s you design color schemes for web pages. You can also teach color theory with it in the classroom. Included schema include mono, compliment, triad, tetrad, analagic, and accented analogic.

You can adjust schemes for value and color intensity, check if they’ll work for colorblind individuals, get the hex codes for each color in your scheme, and export for html, css, xml, and more.
Grants and Opportunities

Music Program Grant - Deadline: Sept. 29, 2011
Link: http://www.mhopus.org/

“The Mr. Holland’s Opus Foundation keeps music alive in our schools and communities by donating musical instruments to under-funded music programs, giving youngsters the many benefits of music education, helping them to be better students and inspiring creativity and expression through playing music. We believe that kids thrive when given the chance to learn and play music. Putting an instrument into their hands improves the quality of their education and their lives. The window is brief and all kids deserve a chance to play music in school!”

Eligibility: Public, private and charter schools may apply, however, schools must be Title 1 or serve a population of at least 40% that qualify for the National Lunch Program. Schools must have an established instrumental music program (i.e. concert band, marching band, jazz band and/or orchestra) that is at least three years old. If your school offers Orff/classroom music only, it is NOT eligible to apply. Schools must have an existing inventory of instruments.

Grant Deadline: Thursday, September 29, 2011
Grant Value: $5,000-$176,000

Shell Science Teaching Award
Link: http://www.nsta.org/about/awards.aspx?lid=tnavhp#shell

This award recognizes one outstanding classroom science teacher (K–12) who has had a positive impact on his or her students, school, and community through exemplary classroom science teaching.

Eligibility: K–12 classroom science teachers
Award: $10,000 and an all-expense paid trip to attend NSTA’s National Conference; two finalists will also receive all-expense-paid trips to the conference
Grant Deadline: Monday October 17th, 2011

P. Buckley Moss Arts Grant
Link: http://mossfoundation.org/national-educators-awards-and-grants

The P. Buckley Moss Foundation for Children’s Education has grants available up to $1,000 to be awarded in 2011 to educators who need assistance to further their program goals.

Applications may be made for a grant up to $1,000 to support a new or evolving program that integrates the arts into educational programming. The purpose is to aid and support teachers who wish to establish an effective learning tool using the arts in teaching children who learn differently.

Eligibility: K-12 teachers
Grant Deadline: Friday September 30th, 2011
Grant Value: $100-$1000

Up to $20,000 for Matching Book Grants
Link: http://www.lefbooks.org/

Welcome to the Literacy Empowerment Foundation (LEF). We are dedicated to assisting educational programs by providing inexpensive children’s books. LEF has several programs available to teachers, non-profit groups and reading programs. LEF has already distributed books to over 40,000 schools nationwide.

Eligibility: Schools
Grant Deadline: Friday, September 30, 2011
Grant Value: $100.00-$20,000.00

Sodexo School Engagement Grants
Link: http://www.ysa.org/grants/sodexoschool

Eligibility: K-12 teachers able to engage at least 20 students for a 14 week period
Grant Deadline: Monday August 15th, 2011
Grant Value: $5,000

The programs funded through this grant will engage teachers and students, grades K-12, in learning about the incidence of childhood hunger in their community, and in leading meaningful activities that facilitate access to nutritious food for all children, especially those most at risk.
Electronic Professional Development Network Courses

NASA's Learning Environments and Research Network and the Georgia Institute of Technology have teamed up to create the Electronic Professional Development Network, or e-PDN, an initiative dedicated to preparing K-12 teachers to engage their students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM through the use of NASA-developed learning materials and resources.

If you are looking for a way to enhance your instructional skills, meet your professional development goals, or find new and exciting resources to use in your learning environments, apply to one of our free courses today!

Applications are now open for the following courses starting in September:

Don't Just Show Me the Numbers; Make Sense of the Information -- Sept. 14 - Oct. 18, 2011

Strengthen your understanding of the statistics content included in the Common Core Standards, while deepening your understanding of data analysis, sampling and inference. Participants will use the four-step investigative approach for problem solving using statistics. Learn to use online interactive applications, NASA data sets and electronic collaborative tools for data collection.


Develop your skills in designing and using project-based inquiry learning, or PBIL, to enhance conceptual understanding, critical thinking, scientific reasoning and problem solving in standards-based classrooms. Experience and analyze two NASA-oriented PBIL projects firsthand; learn PBIL curriculum design strategies and methods; and design a PBIL unit for use in your classroom. Use e-PDN's suite of online tools to collaborate, connect and create with other course participants.


Learn how to build and program LEGO Mindstorm robots and use them to promote student engagement and conceptual understanding of mathematics, science and engineering. Explore robotic manipulators and end effectors like NASA uses on the International Space Station, and integrate multiple sensors into your robot to allow for systematic control. Join your colleagues in the Grand Challenge to design, build and program a robot to explore an environment and return with a sample for investigation.

Technology Integration -- Podcasts in the Classroom -- Oct. 5 - Nov. 8, 2011

For instructors interested in teaching online, the Technology Integration Certificate series introduces you to best practices of online learning. Examine how podcasts can be integrated into the STEM classroom. In this course the benefits as well as obstacles to podcasts will be discussed and you will be introduced to the tools and techniques of creating podcasts.

Technology Integration -- 3-D Visualization -- Oct. 12 - Nov. 15, 2011

For instructors interested in teaching online, the Technology Integration Certificate series introduces you to best practices of online learning and helps get you started on designing your own online course. Learn how to create models of complex objects and bring visual creations to your students to teach them how mathematics, science and communication skills are vital in bringing ideas from imagination to reality.

Technology Integration -- Turn Your Classroom Digital -- Nov. 2 - Dec. 13, 2011

For instructors interested in teaching online, the Technology Integration Certificate series introduces you to best practices of online learning. Learn how to create your own online course from start to finish. Participants will get an overview of online teaching models, learning management systems, instructional design models, Web 2.0 collaborative tools and online assessments.

To learn more about these free courses and to apply online, visit http://nasaepdn.gatech.edu/nasa_certificates.php

For more information on the e-PDN and the resources it offers to K-12 teachers, visit http://www.nasaepdn.gatech.edu

Questions about these courses should be directed to Fran Sponsler at fran.sponsler@dlpe.gatech.edu
NASA LEARN and NASA Explorer Schools Offering Webinars

NASA Learning Environments and Research Network, or LEARN, and NASA Explorer Schools have teamed up to offer exciting webinars featuring NASA educational resources for educators. Below are two offerings in August 2011. The webinars are presented from 4-5 p.m. EST. And, don’t worry about the technology. If you have questions, tech support is ready to assist with viewing and participating in the webinars.

You can register for each of the webinars by clicking on these website links:

**Engineering Design Challenge: Water Filtration -- Aug. 11, 2011, 4 p.m. EST**

This webinar will highlight the water recovery and management function of the Environmental Control and Life Support System, or ECLSS, on the International Space Station. Students will design, build, test and measure the performance of a water filtration device, analyze the data collected and use this information to work toward an improved filtration design.

[https://digitalmedia.wufoo.com/forms/nes-webinar-registration-water-filtration/](https://digitalmedia.wufoo.com/forms/nes-webinar-registration-water-filtration/)

**Smart Skies -- Aug. 16, 2011, 4 p.m. EST**

Learn how to use an innovative air traffic control simulator to engage your students as they explore the mathematics involved in being an air traffic controller.

[https://digitalmedia.wufoo.com/forms/nes-webinar-registration-smart-skies/](https://digitalmedia.wufoo.com/forms/nes-webinar-registration-smart-skies/)
Earth Science Week Contests Announced for 2011

Take part in the following contests to celebrate Earth Science Week. This year’s celebration takes place Oct. 9-15, 2011.

Earth Science Week 2011 Photography Contest -- Open to All Ages

http://www.earthsciweek.org/contests/photography/index.html

The American Geological Institute is sponsoring a photography contest to celebrate Earth Science Week 2011. Photographs should focus on the topic “A World of Change in My Community.” The contest is open to any resident of the United States. Participants should submit pictures that show how their areas are influenced by environmental changes. Entries may be submitted electronically or by mail. Only one entry will be accepted per person. Entries are due Oct. 14, 2011.

Earth Science Week 2011 Visual Arts Contest -- Open to Students in Grades K-5

http://www.earthsciweek.org/contests/visualarts/index.html

The American Geological Institute is sponsoring a visual arts contest to celebrate Earth Science Week 2011. Artwork should focus on the topic “Picturing Our Ever-Changing Earth.” The contest is open to students in grades K-5 who are residents of the United States. Participants should submit an original two-dimensional visual arts project that shows ways in which Earth's air, water, land and living things change over time. Entries are due Oct. 14, 2011, and must be submitted by mail.

Earth Science Week 2011 Essay Contest -- Open to Students in Grades 6-9

http://www.earthsciweek.org/contests/essay/index.html

The American Geological Institute is sponsoring an essay contest to celebrate Earth Science Week 2011. Essays should focus on the theme “How Change Shapes Our Planet.” The contest is open to students in grades 6-9 who are residents of the United States. Participants should submit an original essay no more than 300 words in length, typed and formatted to fit on one page. Entries may be submitted electronically or by mail. The deadline for submitting entries is Oct. 14, 2011.

If you have any questions about any of these contests, please e-mail the Earth Science Week staff at info@earthsciweek.org.

2012 NASA Space Settlement Design Contest

Design a space settlement! Space settlements are permanent communities in orbit, as opposed to being on the moon or other planets. Designing a space settlement involves physics, mathematics, space science, environmental science and many other disciplines. The NASA Space Settlement Design Contest is for 11-18-year-old students from anywhere in the world. Individuals or teams may enter. Grades 6-8, 9-10 and 11-12 are judged separately, except for the grand prize. All participants will receive a certificate. Submissions must be received by March 15, 2012. For more information about the NASA Space Settlement Design Contest, visit http://settlement.arc.nasa.gov/Contest/.

2011 DIME and WING Competitions

NASA announces two opportunities for students to design and build an experiment to be conducted in a NASA research drop tower. The Dropping In a Microgravity Environment, or DIME, competition is for students in grades 9-12. Students in grades 5-8 are encouraged to participate in the “What If No Gravity?” or WING, competition.

Four teams in the high school DIME competition will be invited to visit NASA’s Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio, and operate their experiments in the drop tower. Four additional teams will send their experiments to Glenn for the drop tower staff to operate them.

The winning WING teams will have their experiments operated in the same drop tower by the NASA drop tower staff.

Proposals for both competitions are due on Nov. 1, 2011. Competition selections will be on Dec. 1, 2011, and drop tower operations will be conducted in March 2012.

The DIME & WING competitions are funded by NASA’s Teaching From Space project.

For more information about this opportunity, visit http://spaceflightsystems.grc.nasa.gov/DIME.html.

If you have questions about this opportunity, please e-mail your inquiries to the DIME team at dime@lists.nasa.gov.

NASA Undergraduate Student Research Project Spring 2012 Session

NASA’s Undergraduate Student Research Project is accepting applications for 15-week spring 2012 internships. These internships offer students the opportunity to work alongside NASA scientists and engineers at NASA’s field centers, laboratories and test facilities.

Applicants must be upcoming sophomores, juniors or seniors with a minimum 3.0 grade point average with a major or concentration in engineering, mathematics, computer science, or physical or life sciences. Participants work on practical problems to provide solutions that will be applied in aerospace or on future NASA missions. Applicants must be U.S. citizens.

The application deadline for the spring 2012 session is Oct. 31, 2011. For more information and to apply online, visit http://usrp.usra.edu/. Please e-mail any questions about this opportunity to NASA USRP Project Manager Anthony Zippay at john.a.zippay@nasa.gov.

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If you have questions about this opportunity, please e-mail your inquiries to the DIME team at dime@lists.nasa.gov.
Student Spaceflight Experiments Program

The National Center for Earth and Space Science Education, in partnership with NanoRacks LLC, announces an immediate opportunity for communities across the U.S. to participate in the first Student Spaceflight Experiments Program, or SSEP, mission to America’s national laboratory in space -- the International Space Station. The program is also open to space station partner nations.

Each participating community will be provided an experiment slot in a real microgravity research mini-laboratory scheduled to fly on the space station from March 30 to May 16, 2012. An experiment design competition in each community – engaging 300 to 1,000 students – allows student teams to design real experiments vying for their communities’ reserved experiment slot on the space station. Additional SSEP programming leverages the experiment design competition to engage the community, embracing a Learning Community Model for science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, education.

SSEP missions on STS-134 (Space Shuttle Endeavour) and STS-135 (Space Shuttle Atlantis) have recently been completed, with 1,027 student team proposals received, and 27 SSEP experiments selected and flown -- representing the 27 communities that participated in SSEP on the space shuttle.

Letters of Commitment for this opportunity are due Sept. 15, 2011.

To learn more about this opportunity, visit the SSEP Mission 1 to ISS National Announcement of Opportunity at http://ssep.ncesse.org/2011/07/immediate-historic-opportunity-for-schools-student-spaceflight-experiments-program-mission-1-to-the-international-space-station/.

The SSEP in-orbit research opportunity is enabled through NanoRacks LLC, which is working in partnership with NASA under a Space Act Agreement as part of using the International Space Station as a national laboratory.

If you have any questions about this opportunity, please e-mail SSEP National Program Director Jeff Goldstein at jeffgoldstein@ncesse.org.
Presenters Needed for 2012 Space Exploration Educators Conference

The 18th Annual Space Exploration Educators Conference, or SEEC, is taking place Feb. 2-4, 2012, at Space Center Houston. The goal of SEEC is to encourage K-12 educators to use space to teach all subjects in their classrooms. Over 700 educators gather for this event each year.

Conference organizers are looking for 170 interactive sessions that present exciting classroom activities. All sessions must have a hands-on component; lecture sessions will not be accepted. Proposals will be accepted between Sept. 1 and Sept. 9, 2011.

For more information, visit http://spacecenter.org/TeachersSEEC.html.

If you have any questions about the conference, please call 281-244-2149 or e-mail seec@spacecenter.org.

NASA Students on Facebook: New Page

The NASA Students on Facebook site has moved to a new page within Facebook. To receive daily updates on Facebook, please visit the page and hit the Like button located toward the top of the page. The student Facebook page highlights opportunities open to students in grades 9-12 and above, and broadcasts information regarding feature articles, podcasts, videos and more that might be of interest to high school and college groups.

If you have the old site bookmarked, that link will no longer contain updated information. Please make sure to change your bookmark to the new address.


Turn Students into MoonGazers or become a MoonGazer yourself!

Use the Internet, the award-winning videogame Selene, and the virtual world MoonWorld to learn the solar system's basic geological processes. Blast away at what will quickly become a full-fledged, pockmarked moon like our own; follow with hands-on activities; and go outside to explore the Moon. Young people and adults develop MoonGazer skills through a sequence of teaching and learning opportunities.

Selene: A Lunar Construction Game. Players age 9 and up discover and apply basic planetary geology concepts as they form the Earth's Moon and change it to replicate its 4.5 billion year history. Read more about Selene. http://selene.cet.edu/?page=news&id=88

MoonWorld. Players age 9 and up work in teams of four conducting virtual field work on the surface of a moon. Read more about MoonWorld. http://selene.cet.edu/?page=news&id=89

Prepared with new knowledge that makes Moon viewing meaningful, learners complete MoonGazers hands-on activities for observing the Earth's Moon within the context of the Earth, Moon, sun system.

• Read more about MoonGazers professional development. http://selene.cet.edu/?page=news&id=90
• Read more about MoonGazers student activities. http://selene.cet.edu/?page=moongazers
• Watch us! Watch the West Virginia Public Broadcasting feature on Selene, MoonWorld, and MoonGazers on YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBPq3Hc_g1Y

Schedule your MoonGazers events today.

Contact us:
Selene. Videogame for your students teaching fundamental planetary geology concepts: selene@cet.edu
MoonWorld. Missions for your students and MoonWorld professional development: moonworld@cet.edu
MoonGazers. Activities and professional development: moongazers@cet.edu
Welcome back to school! We know that you are settling back into the flow of the classroom and we hope your summer was a nice chance to recharge your batteries. Over the summer the UCET board had a productive weekend of meetings that helped shape some of our upcoming conference. We’d like to let you know about a couple exciting announcements about UCET 2012.

First of all, we have a theme for the conference. This year’s theme is UCET 2012: Going for the Gold. At UCET we strive to be considered as a gold standard in providing technology and curriculum resources for your classroom. We know how hard each of you works to give your students the best you have to offer and we hope you feel we do the same with our annual conference. At this year’s conference we plan to focus on helping you and your students reach the academic standards that are vital for success. Expect to find many sessions with resources for teaching with technology related to the Common Core and new standards for Utah teachers.

Another announcement for the 2012 conference is our list of keynote presenters. This year we are fortunate to have two dynamic speakers. Our opening keynote is Rushton Hurley, an accomplished educator and President of Nextvista.org. Rushton has taught at the high school and college level, been a school principal, worked with charter and traditional schools, and organized and run an online school. Rushton is committed to the idea of helping students become more engaged in and confident with their learning - and it is this idea that drives his passion and resources to make his project succeed. Give him a few minutes, and he’ll convince you, too.

Our closing keynote is Olympic Gold medalist Rulon Gardner. Many of you will remember his stirring victory against all odds in the 2000 Olympic games. Now, you’ll have the chance to hear Rulon’s personal story. It is a story that goes beyond just the wrestling mat and shows his successes as a student and learner. Rulon will inspire you to reach out to all your students and help them reach their goals.

We know this year’s conference will help you Go for the Gold. We hope your first few weeks back at school have been fantastic and we look forward to sharing new ideas and strategies throughout the coming school year.

Jared Covili
UCET President
Welcome to the new school year!

Now Featured on Utah’s Recommended List of Instructional Materials -
Lakeshore’s New Interactive Software!

Lakeshore Learning Materials is embracing technology in the classroom. With over 55 years of experience providing instructional materials to schools nationwide, Lakeshore now offers standards-based software for whiteboards and classroom computers. Featuring titles for math, language and science, their new software targets the everyday needs of K–6 classrooms.

For a limited time, you can download one free software title at...
Link: http://www.lakeshorelearning.com/FreeSoftware4UT

Designed for use with all leading interactive whiteboards—as well as being both Mac/PC-compatible—Lakeshore’s software is developed with three goals in mind:
1) It must be standards-based;
2) It must be easy to install; and
3) It must be easy to use for both teachers and students.

The result is software that features a simple, intuitive design that anyone can operate…plus tons of interactive, standards-based activities that help students master core concepts.

Lakeshore currently offers over 50 exclusive software titles, but they are debuting more than 65 new titles in 2012—including over 25 titles created specifically for early childhood classrooms. To learn more about Lakeshore’s current software, download their Interactive Software catalog.

New! The UCET Blog -
Link: http://ucetnews.blogspot.com

This month, UCET is beginning a blog, and we invite you to participate with us. If you’re like the rest of us, every so often you run across an item that really excites you - that you just want to share. A Blog is one of the easiest ways. The sole purpose of the UCET blog is to share news, resources, and information pertaining to using technology effectively in education.

The Blog is moderated by the UCET Board. We welcome submissions about resources, strategies, tools, tutorials - anything that would fit within the spectrum of using technology to support high quality instruction. Please feel free to submit a post to the UCET moderators at UCETeditor@gmail.com

You can subscribe to the blog. You can leave comments on the posts. It is a fun and informative way of becoming more of a community, rather than just a yearly conference.

We may even glean the very best from the blog to put in the monthly UCET newsletters. We encourage you to participate with us!
Free eBook - First Look at Office 2010
Wanting to learn Office 2010? Take advantage of this 202 page book, provided free from Microsoft.
14 Chapters:
1 - Welcome to Office 2010; 2 - Express Yourself Effectively and Efficiently; 3 - Collaborate in the Office and Around the World; 4 - Create and Share Compelling Documents with Word 2010; 5 - Create Smart Data Insights with Excel 2010; 6 - Manage Rich Communications with Outlook 2010; 7 - Produce Dynamic Presentations with PowerPoint 2010; 8 - Organize, Store, and Share Ideas with OneNote 2010; 9 - Collaborate Effectively with SharePoint Workspace 2010; 10 - Create Effective Marketing Materials with Publisher 2010; 11 - Make Sense of Your Data with Access 2010; 12 - Putting It All Together; 13 - Security in Office 2010; 14 - Training Made Easy.

Free Tutorial Central
Link: http://freetutorialcentral.com/
This site is dedicated to presenting free high-quality tutorials in PDF that can be saved and printed. They currently have tutorials available for Excel 2010, PowerPoint 2010, Word 2007, Excel 2007, PowerPoint 2007, and Excel 2003 and Statistical Analysis.

Mac OSX Hints - Get Answers to Everything Mac
Need to know how to do something on your Mac? Try MacOSX Hints
Link: http://hints.macworld.com/
For those of you who use Macintosh, this is a great source of information - how to do just about anything you need to do on your Mac. Need to show invisible files? These are mostly "under-the-hood" kinds of things you can do from a command line prompt in terminal, so it’s not for the novice or the feint-of-heart.

Free Classroom Guides and Educational Downloads for 2011
From Edutopia - a great resource site for teachers and home school parents:
Link: http://www.edutopia.org/classroom-guides-downloads
Ten Tips for Classroom Management
Learn how to improve student engagement and build a positive climate for learning and discipline for grades K-12.
Top Ten Tips for Teaching with New Media
Whether you’re new to teaching or a classroom veteran, this resource-packed collection of 10 new media tips provides fresh ideas and easy-to-use tools to engage your students and make learning more collaborative. (Updated: 6/14/11)
Summer Rejuvenation Guide
Whether it’s reading a good book or starting a new hobby, this resource-packed guide highlights ten fun ways to spend your summer. (Updated: 5/24/11)
Top Ten Tips for Assessing Project-Based Learning
This classroom guide is intended to inspire and expand your thinking about effective assessment for project-based learning.
Home-to-School Resource Guide
Get tips, tech tools, and strategies for how to strengthen the bonds between schools, families, and communities.
The Original iPhone Film Festival

Submission deadline extended to October 31, 2011! Entry is free!

Do you have an iPhone™, iPod Touch™ or iPad2™? Then there’s a film studio in your pocket! That’s why this unique film festival was created - to showcase the creativity, talent and imagination of you, the iPhone filmmaker. Put your film studio to work because it’s as easy as Shoot, Edit & Upload.

The Original iPhone Film Festival, a groundbreaking online festival showcasing iPhone and Apple iOS filmmaking, is now accepting submissions for its inaugural event. Entries will be accepted through October 31, 2011 and winners announced in November.

In addition to an online showcase, the winning films will receive prizes including a MacBook Air, iPad2’s, Apple TV’s and more provided by Red Giant Software, Zacuto USA, ALM Live, iStabilizer, Vericorder, Macphun, Pro Camera, Filmic Pro, Movie Slate and Geneva Lab.

Entries will be judged by a stellar panel of industry experts from entertainment and advertising including the rockstar members of Maroon 5, author & legendary “Madman” Jimmy Siegel, Oscar-nominated filmmaker Lasse Hallstrom, NY Times technology guru David Pogue, Macworld editorial director Jason Snell and Oscar-winning documentarian Cynthia Wade.


Yahoo to Fund School Projects

Link: http://www.homepagesforhomerooms.com/

Yahoo! has partnered with donourschoo.org to launch a program, Homepages for Homerooms, designed to help fund classrooms and teachers.

To be eligible, teachers must post a project on donourschoo.org. Other participants can then vote for projects by visiting homepagesforhomerooms.com, choosing the project they like, and clicking the vote button, which will make Yahoo.com their homepage. The projects can be searched by location, subject, or grade level, and can also be found by entering a project ID number.

Each week, Yahoo! will donate $25,000, or up to $600 each, to the projects that receive the most votes. The program ends October 16.

The 2011 Educators’ Choice Awards from ADOBE

Link: http://edexchange.adobe.com/pages/09a1b0d5f2?trackingid=JAXHZ

Turn your imagination into innovation — and win big!

The Adobe Education Exchange is excited to announce The 2011 Educators’ Choice Awards. Faculty, staff, and other higher education professionals can win valuable prizes by producing and submitting innovative teaching and learning materials. The entry period is now underway, so start submitting your entries today!

Submit original entries by October 14

Your higher education colleagues will rate your work, so impress them with exciting projects, curricula, tutorials, and other submissions. Valuable prizes — including laptop and tablet computers, digital cameras, and Adobe software — will be awarded in each of these categories:

• Higher Education Cross-Curricular
• Higher Education Digital Arts and Media

Link: http://direct.adobe.com/r?xnllWlnEWTWnTEcJHlTvWn

Adobe Education Exchange 2011 Educators’ Choice Awards: Prizes

Each category will have one (1) grand prize winner and two (2) runner-up winners, each to receive as follows:

Higher Education Digital Arts and Media
• Grand Prize - Apple MacBook Pro 15” 2.0 GHz or Dell XPS 15 Intel Core i7-2630QM processor 2.0 GHz and Adobe Creative Suite 5.5 Master Collection (ARV: US$4,398)
• Runners-up (2) - Tablet computer (BlackBerry PlayBook 32 GB or Motorola Xoom 32 GB WiFi) and Adobe Creative Suite 5.5 Design, Web, or Production Premium (ARV: US$2,498/prize)

Higher Education Cross-Curricular
• Grand Prize - Apple MacBook Pro 15” 2.0 GHz or Dell XPS 15 Intel Core i7-2630QM processor 2.0 GHz and Adobe Creative Suite 5.5 Master Collection (ARV: US$4,398)
• Runners-up (2) - Canon EOS Rebel T1i EF-S and Adobe Photoshop Elements/Premiere Elements 9 bundle, and Adobe Acrobat X Pro (ARV: US$1,348.98/prize)

Primary/Secondary Digital Arts and Media
• Grand Prize - Apple MacBook Pro 15” 2.0 GHz or Dell XPS 15 Intel Core i7-2630QM processor 2.0 GHz and Adobe Creative Suite 5.5 Master Collection (ARV: US$4,398)
• Runners-up (2) - Tablet computer (BlackBerry PlayBook 32 GB or Motorola Xoom 32 GB WiFi) and Adobe Creative Suite 5.5 Design, Web, or Production Premium (ARV: US$2,498/prize)

Primary/Secondary Cross Curricular
• Grand Prize - Apple MacBook Pro 15” 2.0 GHz or Dell XPS 15 Intel Core i7-2630QM processor 2.0 GHz and Adobe Creative Suite 5.5 Master Collection (ARV: US$4,398)
• Runners-up (2) - Canon EOS Rebel T1i EF-S, Adobe Photoshop Elements/Premiere Elements 9 bundle, and Adobe Acrobat X Pro (ARV: US$1,348.98/prize)
Arts Experience @ USU
Integrating Arts in the Classroom

FREE FALL WORKSHOP SERIES

Oct. 8 Exploring Literature through Music
9:00 - 12:00. Join Dr. Sylvia Munsen, clinician (USU Professor of Arts Education) at the Edith Bowen Laboratory School Auditorium. Workshop participants will experience and explore musical strategies based on children’s literature. Strategies will include creating new verses for known songs, utilizing instruments to create “sound pieces,” reinforcing words through movement, and producing effective choral reading opportunities.

Oct. 15 Music in Early Childhood: singing, playing and moving
9:00 -12:00 Sylvia Munsen, clinician (USU Professor of Arts Education), will be teaching a workshop at the Edith Bowen Laboratory School Auditorium. Workshop participants will experience singing, playing and moving activities appropriate for young children. Shared strategies will focus on musical engagement, sequential skill development and opportunities for creativity in a motivationally safe environment.

Nov. 5 Expressive Dance: the art of collective connectedness
9:00 -12:00 Camille Litalien, clinician (USU Professor of Dance), will be hosting a workshop in the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building at Utah State University – Room 215. Workshop participants will explore their expressive relationship to space, rhythm and movement. Technical, creative, and improvisational exercises will be presented in a fun environment for all.

All workshops will be held on Utah State University’s Campus. The workshops are free – open to all public school teachers and USU students. USU workshop credit and licensure points are available. Pre-register one week before each workshop to obtain a handout!

For more information, please call Dr. Sylvia Munsen, Beverly Taylor Sorenson Endowed Chair for Elementary Arts Education at USU. 435-797-2220

4th Digital Media and Learning Competition Kick-Off Event

Today learning happens anytime, anyplace, at any age. How can 21st-century learners demonstrate their knowledge and skills? Digital badges can inspire learning, unlock jobs, encourage educational and civic opportunities, and open new pipelines for talent.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, in collaboration with Mozilla and HASTAC, invites you to an event on Sept. 15, 2011, to explore the potential of Badges for Lifelong Learning. Badges are a new assessment tool that will help identify skills mastered in formal and informal settings; virtually and in physical spaces; and in schools, workplaces and communities.

Featured speakers include:

• The Honorable Arne Duncan, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education.
• Charles F. Bolden Jr., Administrator, NASA.
• Emily Stover DeRocco, President, The Manufacturing Institute and the National Center for the American Workforce.
• Mark Surman, Executive Director, Mozilla Foundation.

The event will feature the announcement of the 4th Digital Media and Learning Competition, which will provide up to $2 million in grants for innovations in the use of Badges for Learning.

To watch a live video stream of the event from the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 15, 2011, from 9 a.m-10:30 a.m. EDT, visit http://hastac.org/DML-competition-launch

For more information about the 4th Digital Media and Learning Competition, visit http://www.dmlcompetition.net/
PAESMEM Grant

$10,000 for excellence in science, mathematics, and engineering mentoring

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM) Grant

The White House established the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM) Program. The Program, administered on behalf of the White House by the National Science Foundation, seeks to identify outstanding individual mentoring efforts or organizational programs designed to enhance the participation and retention of individuals (including persons with disabilities, women and minorities) who might not otherwise have considered or had access to opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The awardees serve as exemplars to their colleagues and are leaders in the national effort to develop more fully the nation's human resources in STEM. Nominations, including self-nominations, for individuals and organizations are invited for the competition for these annual awards.

Contact Information
- Grant Organization: National Science Foundation
- Eligibility: U.S. citizens affiliate with an educational institution
- Grant Deadline: Wednesday October 5th, 2011
- Grant Value: $10,000

Source - eSchoolnews

NASA Aeronautics Scholarship Program

NASA's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate is accepting scholarship applications from graduate and undergraduate students for the 2012 academic year. The application deadline is Jan. 15, 2012.

Graduate students must apply under a specific research topic to align with NASA's aeronautics research programs. The list of available topics is posted online.

NASA expects to award 20 undergraduate and five graduate scholarships to students in aeronautics or related fields. Undergraduate students entering their second year of study will receive up to $15,000 per year for two years and the opportunity to receive a $10,000 stipend by interning at a NASA research center during the summer.

Graduate students will receive up to $35,000 per year for up to three years, with an opportunity to receive a $10,000 stipend interning at a NASA research center for up to two consecutive summers.

Students not committed to a specific academic institution or program still may apply. If accepted, they must be admitted by fall 2012 into an aeronautical engineering program or related field of study at an accredited U.S. university. Applicants must be U.S. citizens. Scholarship money may be used for tuition and other school-related expenses.

NASA’s Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate conducts cutting-edge, fundamental and integrated systems research in traditional and emerging disciplines. The intent is to help transform the nation's air transportation system and to support development of future air and space vehicles.

Its goals include improving airspace capacity and flexibility; aviation safety and aircraft performance; reducing overall noise, engine emissions and fuel usage.

For details about this scholarship program, a list of available research topics and the application process, visit [http://nasa.asee.org/](http://nasa.asee.org/).

For more information about aeronautics research at NASA, visit: [http://www.aeronautics.nasa.gov](http://www.aeronautics.nasa.gov).

Questions about this scholarship should be directed to nasa.asp@asee.org.
September Happenings...

Constitution Day (September 17)

On Constitution and Citizenship Day, September 17, the U.S. celebrates the signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787. In 2004, a law was passed establishing the holiday that honors both the signing of the Constitution and all individuals who have become citizens, whether born in the U.S. or by naturalization.

The Constitution: That Delicate Balance

Link: http://www.learner.org/resources/series72.html

A video instructional series on the American Constitution for college and high school classrooms and adult learners; 13 one-hour video programs and coordinated books.

Constitutional issues come to life in this Emmy Award-winning series. Key political, legal, and media professionals engage in spontaneous and heated debates on controversial issues such as campaign spending, the right to die, school prayer, and immigration reform. This series will deepen understanding of the life and power of this enduring document and its impact on history and current affairs, while bringing biases and misconceptions to light.


International Literacy Day (September 8)

International Literacy Day, traditionally observed annually on September 8, focuses attention on worldwide literacy needs. More than 780 million of the world’s adults (nearly two-thirds of whom are women) do not know how to read or write, and between 94 and 115 million children lack access to education.

In past years the International Reading Association councils have found a variety of ways to observe International Literacy Day, from organizing themed readings in local schools and libraries to supporting national and international literacy programs.

Link: http://www.reading.org/General/Conferences/InternationalLiteracyDay.aspx

Patriot Day (September 11)

Link: http://Pioneer-library.org

Have a look at the following eMedia resources:

- Frontline. In Search of Al Qaeda. Episode01.
- Frontline. In Search of Al Qaeda. Episode02.
- Frontline. In Search of Al Qaeda. Episode03.
- Frontline. In Search of Al Qaeda. Episode04.
- Frontline. In Search of Al Qaeda. Episode05.
- Frontline. In Search of Al Qaeda. Episode06.
- Frontline. Chasing the Sleeper Cell.
- Frontline. In Search of Al Qaeda. Episode07.
- The Man Who Knew.
- Frontline. The Insurgency.
- Frontline. Faith and Doubt at Ground Zero.
- The Road to 9/11: A Brief History of Conflict in the Middle East.
- Avoiding Armageddon. Episode 03-The New Face of Terror: Upping the Ante.

Labor Day (September 5)

Link: http://Pioneer-library.org

Have a look at the following eMedia resources:

- Joe Hill.
- A Day in the Life. Prissy, Dennis, and Tom’s Day: Episode01.
- A Day in the Life. Mr. Carter’s Day Off: Episode02.
- A Day in the Life. Daniel Grove’s Day: Episode03.
- A Day in the Life. Anne Sparks’s Day: Episode05.
- A Day in the Life. Patsy Grenville’s Day: Episode06.
- A Day in the Life. Mrs. Woods Day: Episode08.
- A Day in the Life of a Title 1 Principal.
- American Experience: The 1930s: The Civilian Conservation Corps
Professional Development Course Catalog

Attention: You must have a my.uen account in order to register for a UEN course. Visit my.uen to create an account or to retrieve your login information. Not sure if you already have an account? Use our Educator Search tool to find out.

Online Classes

NOTE: Registration closes 10 days prior to first day of class shown here. Time is needed for access and orientation.

- Internet Safety For Educators
- my.uen for Web-enhanced Classrooms
- Pioneer, Utah's Online Library
- Six Technology Projects
- Teaching with Digital Video
- Tech Projects for Science
- WebQuests
- UEN-TV: The Art of Teaching the Arts
- UEN-TV: Artifacts and Fiction
- UEN-TV: The Economics Classroom
- UEN-TV: Essential Science: Earth and Space Science
- UEN-TV: The Expanding Canon
- UEN-TV: Looking at Learning...Again, Part 1
- UEN-TV: Science in Focus: Energy
- UEN-TV: Teaching Reading 3-5

UCET - a great conference - and a great community of Educators!

Link: http://ucet.org

For years, many hundred educators, administrators, and technology specialists have attended the annual conference of the Utah Coalition for Educational Technology (UCET). Each year it has grown, and has become one of the premiere educator conferences in Utah. Thank you for making UCET the successful organization it is. Looking forward, we desire to evolve into a wonderful educator community that uses technology to communicate, share, and develop professionally. We cordially invite you to join our new blog, our Facebook page, Twitter feed, and YouTube Channel. With your help and participation, these will become avenues to building the UCET community.
UCET 2012 - Presenter Proposal and Registration Now Open!

This year’s annual conference of the Utah Coalition for Educational Technology will center around the theme: **Going for the Gold** - Reach Higher! Achieve More! Learn strategies using educational technology to support high quality instruction. We are currently seeking presenters that can give informative, dynamic presentations focused upon this theme. The presentation possibilities are many and varied. We encourage presentations having to do with curriculum, administration, technology tools (including setup, security, maintenance, tweaking), networks, anything that achieves the goal of supporting high quality instruction!

We desire our conference participants to come away from UCET 2012 energized, motivated, and laden with new, innovative ideas that can be implemented in their districts, schools, and classrooms.

Please consider presenting at next year’s conference. Share your experience and expertise. Deadline for presentation proposals is December 15, 2011. Visit the [Registration Form](#)... 

Free Science Resource Kits!

Looking for great ways to utilize technology to engage your students and improve comprehension in your science classroom? Tech4Learning has developed science resource kits that include:

- articles on using animation and multimedia to engage learners in science,
- high-level lessons plans on science topics like planets, inventions, and chemical bonding,
- exciting student samples!

Download a kit for the elementary classroom:

Download a kit for the secondary classroom:
October Happenings...

All Month - National Domestic Violence Awareness/Prevention Month; National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (get screened!); Oktoberfest in Germany; Jewish High Holidays

October 2, 2011 - National Custodial Workers Day - be sure to thank the hard-working men and women who keep our schools looking nice every day.


October 31, 2011 - Halloween; the name of the festival historically kept by the Gaels in the British isles is derived from Old Irish and means roughly “summer’s end.” [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halloween](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halloween)

Source: October UEN Highlights

Grant: $1,000 to support classroom projects

Toshiba America Foundation K-5 Grants
Source: eSchoolNews Staff

Toshiba America Foundation’s mission is to provide teachers with additional funds to support classroom projects. After school and summer projects, and independent study projects are not eligible. The foundation strongly encourages projects planned and led by individual teachers or teams of teachers for their own classrooms.

Many successful grantees have designed projects that tap into the natural curiosity of their students, enable students to frame their own scientific questions, and incorporate the expertise of community partners.

Contact Information

- Grant Organization: Toshiba America Foundation
- Contact URL: [http://www.toshiba.com/taf/k5Teachers.jsp](http://www.toshiba.com/taf/k5Teachers.jsp)
- Eligibility: K-5th grade science & math teachers
- Grant Deadline: Saturday October 1st, 2011
- Grant Value: $100-$1,000

Grant: Up to $1,000 for helping youth fight obesity

UnitedHealth HEROES Program Grant
Source: eSchool News Staff

The UnitedHealth HEROES Program is a service-learning, health literacy initiative developed by UnitedHealthcare and YSA. The Program awards grants to help youth, ages 5-25, create and implement local, hands-on programs to fight childhood obesity.

Each grant engages participating youth in service-learning, an effective teaching and learning strategy that supports student learning, academic achievement, and workplace readiness. The grants encourage semester-long projects that launch on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service (January 16, 2012) and culminate on Global Youth Service Day (April 20-22, 2012).

Contact Information

- Grant Organization: UnitedHealthcare And YSA
- Contact URL: [http://www.ysa.org/HEROES](http://www.ysa.org/HEROES)
- Eligibility: Schools, service-learning coordinators, non-profits, and students in the health professions in the U.S.
- Grant Deadline: Monday October 17th, 2011
- Grant Value: $500-$1,000

October eMedia Picks from UEN

A Very Brave Witch
NOVA: Ghost in Your Genes
Moving Muscles and Bones: Skeleton
Moving Muscles and Bones: Role of skeleton
Draw Me a Story. The Magic Tree
Cyberchase: Trick or Treat

Grant - More than $12K for classroom tech
Lamp-Free Projection Technology Grant

Source: eSchoolNews

Administrators and faculty of public or private schools and universities in the United States can enter Casio’s Lamp-Free Projector Technology Grant for a chance to win a Mobile Classroom Package worth $12,500. The Mobile Classroom Package includes a Casio Short Throw Projector, Casio Pen & Software, 30 pairs of Casio 3D active glasses and an AVRover Cart equipped with a 3D computer.

Contact Information

- Grant Organization: Casio
- Contact URL: [http://www.casioeducationprojectors.com/](http://www.casioeducationprojectors.com/)
- Eligibility: Public and private K-12 schools and universities
- Grant Deadline: Monday October 31st, 2011
- Grant Value: Mobile classroom package worth $12,500
Compiled by Clarissa Barnhill
Utah Assistive Technology Program

**Proloquo2Go** **$189.99** - Proloquo2Go™ is a product from AssistiveWare that provides a full-featured communication solution for people who have difficulty speaking. It brings natural sounding text-to-speech voices, close to 8000 up-to-date symbols, powerful automatic conjugations, a large default vocabulary, full expandability and extreme ease of use to the iPhone, iPod touch and iPad.

**Pictello** **$14.99** - Pictello is a simple way to create talking photo albums and talking books. Each page in a Pictello Story can contain a picture, up to five lines of text, and a recorded sound or text-to-speech using high-quality voices. Stories can be shared using iTunes File Sharing or via WiFi with other Pictello users through a free account on the Pictello Sharing Server.

**Eye Glasses** **$2.99** - The Eye Glasses app is ideal for farsighted individuals, those with reading glasses or bifocals, senior citizens and anyone that just needs to see more clearly. Eye Glasses clearly displays text or imagery. To use Eye Glasses, choose between 2x, 4x, 6x or 8x magnification and hold the iPad camera about five inches away from the item you want to see magnified!

**TouchChat HD** **$149.99** - TouchChat HD is a full featured communication solution for individuals who have difficulty using their natural voice. TouchChat is designed for individuals with Autism, Down Syndrome, ALS, apraxia, stroke, or other conditions that affect a person's ability to use natural speech. TouchChat enables you to subscribe to iShare, an online server where you can share customized pages with an online community.

**Digit Eyes** **$29.99** - Digit-Eyes is the application that lets you use your device to scan bar code labels and to voice the results of the scan to you. You can scan the manufacturer's codes (UPC / EAN / APN / JPN / codes) on items and find out what those codes mean; and scan bar code labels of your own that you make using this website. To do so, you just request bar codes from this website and, using the printer attached to your computer, print the codes on inexpensive address labels.

**Tap Speak Sequence** **$29.99** - TapSpeak Sequence for iPad revolutionizes how parents, speech therapists, vision therapists, schools, and institutions create and use message sequences to help disabled children learn to communicate. Use TapSpeak Sequence instead of sequential message switches to record and customize messages without losing any previously recorded sequences. Kids with cerebral palsy, autism, cortical vision impairment (CVI), pediatric stroke, or any disability that impairs their ability to communicate can make use of this app.

**TASUC** **$15.99** - TASUC SCHEDULE for iPad is a very simple, picture-based schedule application for iPhone/iPod touch, especially for small children to easily create his/her own daily time-table by using image cards with sounds & voices attached. This application was, above all, developed for verbally disabled children and people with developmental disabilities such as autism, so that they can manage their “want-to-do’s” simply and in order. As a result, an intuitive user interface and experience have been realized, thus this application can also be used for ordinary children and adults as well.

**Sound Amp R** **$5.99** - Amplify the world around you discreetly with iPhone and iPod touch. Sounds are sent to your earbuds in real time. Hear what you’d like to hear. Record what you’d like to record! Works in many situations, around the table at home, watching TV, in lecture halls, at parties, wherever you’d like to hear, or overhear, the people around you! We have tuned soundAMP to provide you crystal clear sound at the maximum volume possible. And with its advanced technology, it even reduces volume over the limit.

**Tap To Talk** **FREE OR $99.95 to customize** - Give your non-verbal child the portable, customizable, affordable, socially acceptable communication device. You customize what your child sees and hears in TapToTalk with an online program called TapToTalk Designer. With it, you build “albums” that fit your child’s needs.

**Grace** **$37.99** - A simple picture exchange system developed By and For non-verbal people allowing the user to communicate their needs by building sentences from relevant images. It can be customised by the individual using their picture and photo vocabulary.

**Sign 4 Me** **$9.99** - A Signed English Translator is the ULTIMATE tool for learning sign language. The ONLY app that provides sign language instruction in 3D! Our 3D character can be zoomed in or out and rotated to give you the best vantage point for every sign. YOU control the placement of the character – not us! No other product lets you do this! The library includes more than 11,500 words. Type in sentences, phrases, words and even the alphabet. Everything you enter will be saved in your History. Easily locate your entries by date or alphabetically. You can delete whatever you don’t want to keep. Use the controls to speed up or slow down the signing; turn on or off the looping feature; and send the character to his “home” or default position.

**Scene Speak** **$14.99** - Scene Speak is a wonderful communication tool for those with Autism, Aphasia, Apraxia, developmental disabilities or anyone wanting to enhance receptive language or visual memory.

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Are We Asking the Wrong Question About Educational Technology?

In a recent eSchoolnews article, editor Dennis Pierce said, “Does the use of textbooks lead to better student achievement? Somebody should do the research. Schools nationwide are spending billions of dollars each year on textbooks, with no clear evidence they improve test scores—and stakeholders deserve some answers.” He used this statement to lead into the fact that we ask this same question of technology purchases schools make. He continues, “In the end, that’s all technology is, too—a resource [like textbooks]. In the hands of talented and well-trained teachers, it can facilitate high-quality teaching and learning; when used by average teachers, it most likely will lead to average results.” He goes on to say what the real question should be, and points to research that shows the kind of teaching environments that make successful use of technology. Thought provoking reading...
The UCET Newsletter is evolving...

Back in 2004, the UCET newsletter had basically gone extinct. As a new board member for UCET, I volunteered to bring the newsletter back to life for a couple of reasons. First of all, there were many wonderful teacher resources out there that teachers didn't know about - and I wanted to share them. The second reason was that the board felt we needed to communicate more regularly with our members. We wanted UCET to become more than just a yearly conference.

Those goals still exist. However, we feel that sharing resources with you will be better served using a blog. So we set up the UCET Blog...

Link: http://ucetnews.blogspot.com/

A blog is better for sharing resources than a newsletter for several reasons:

1. Blogs are immediate and timely. We can post an app that is free for only a day or two, a time sensitive grant opportunity, etc., and get that information to you quickly.

2. Blogs can have more than one author. I won't be doing this forever. I have been writing and posting newsletters for six years now - over 900 pages. Although it has been worthwhile, this sharing of resources really needs to be more than a one-man show - it needs to be a community effort. You need to get involved. Think of what a wonderful resource we'd have if all of you were posting.

3. UCET needs to be more than just a yearly conference. It needs to evolve from an organization into a community. If you are reading this, you are a member of that community. So please share resources, ideas, thoughts, etc., that would be of interest to the UCET community. Email them to...

UCETeditor@gmail.com

To keep the blog focused and flame free - submissions are moderated by the UCET Board.

I will still be doing a monthly newsletter - but it will focus more on UCET news, articles, and other related kinds of things. We hope you find the UCET Blog a wonderful, useful resource - there are some GREAT resources there, and we hope to add a few more each day. With your help, this will become a marvelous means of community communication.

Sincerely,

Nathan Smith, UCET Board
Website, Newsletter, Blog
Blogspot.com

How to create a blog. Learn how to post and add pictures.
Created by Amy Lott, October 01, 2011

Getting to blogspot.com

1- Insert blogspot.com in address bar
2- Click on "get started" button if you do not already have a google account

Just sign in if you already have a google email account

1- If you do have a google email account then "sign in" by typing in your email and password
2- Click "sign in"
1- Create a display name that will be used to sign your name on blog posts.
2- Check the box to accept the terms of service
3- Click "continue"
1- You are now looking at your "Dashboard"
2- This is where you can view which blogs you manage.
3- And which blogs you follow.
4- You can edit your profile and photo here.
- To create your own blog click on "Create your blog now" button.
1- Create a blog title
2- Decide what you want your URL to be and "check availability"
3- Click "continue"
Choose a starter template

1- Browse and select a template you like.
2- Click "continue"
Your blog has now been created.
1- Click "start blogging"
Make your first post!

1- Decide what to title your first post.
2- Enter text for your post in the text box window.
3- Notice the tool menu on the text box window. There are tools for formatting text such as
changing font size and color, bold, underline, or italicize text. Format paragraphs and use spell check. This is also where you will attach photos and videos on your blog.
Just hover over the icon you want to use with the mouse and the icon name will appear

Add a photo, video, or link to another website

The icons highlighted in the red box will allow you to create a link, post a picture or video.
Click on the photo icon
After you have click on the photo icon your screen will look like this.
Click on the "choose files" button.
Find what photo you want to post from your computer and select open.
Finish selecting a photo

1- Once you find and select a photo it will appear in the window.
2- Click on "add selected"
1- Once you are done writing your text and uploading your pictures then click on the "publish post" button.
This is what my blog post looks like. Hope yours looks good too!
How Do You Become a UCET Board Member?

The UCET Board is an elected volunteer position. It involves a lot of work, but also a lot of fun. It is important to know that running for the board involves a time commitment. Board members must attend a yearly 2 1/2 day conference planning retreat. This year the retreat was held on July 28-30, 2011. The Board also holds a 2-hour monthly board meeting. Board members are expected to attend in person or via Skype.

Each Board member organizes a certain aspect of the conference, (i.e. volunteers, registration, conference program, tech strands, web page, newsletter, Web 2.0, communication, conference give-aways, presenters, signs, vendors, videotaping, and much more). Board members must complete their part so that the conference runs smoothly. Sometimes that involves many extra hours, especially in the weeks and days prior to the UCET Conference.

The UCET Board is made up of members with rich experiences from all areas of educational technology. Board members have lots of laughs and rewarding experiences together and often form lifelong friendships. We would love to have you run for the UCET board and join a dedicated group of teachers, network specialists, and educational technology professionals who put on the yearly UCET conference, and keep you informed of educational technology news, opportunities, and much more!

Would you like to run for a UCET Board position? Please submit your name here...

Link: http://tinyurl.com/UCET-board-candidates

Applications to run for a board position are due by Feb. 15, 2012!

UCET 2012

Keynote Speakers

For our opening keynote this year we have Rushton Hurley, President of Next Vista.org. Rushton is a former classroom teacher, principal, and college instructor who works to make learning more engaging, with a focus on helping students start strong with any topic they study. Next Vista’s central project is a free, online library of teacher- and student-made short videos for learners everywhere.

Our closing keynote is Olympic Gold medalist Rulon Gardner. Many of you will remember his stirring victory against all odds in the 2000 Olympic games. Now, you’ll have the chance to hear Rulon’s personal story. It is a story that goes beyond just the wrestling mat and shows his successes as a student and learner. Rulon will inspire teachers to reach out to all their students and help them reach their goals.
SUCON Conference a Success!

Charlie Roberts, UCET Board

In the summer of 2010 the SUECON event was proposed to the UCET Board. The Board responded by giving their full support to the idea of a technology conference in Southern Utah during the fall of 2011. Shortly thereafter the same concept was presented to both the Washington County School District School Board and the UELMA Board, and again both boards approved. Planning for the joint conference between Washington County School District (WCSD), UCET and UELMA began. After discussions with the school district superintendents in the region the fall break for WCSD was selected as the days for the conference, and Desert Hills High School was selected as the venue.

A conference committee was organized with board members from both UCET and UELMA playing key roles as conference planners. The WCSD Technology department took the lead and the conference was planned.

The call for presenters went out in April and by the end of September over 106 presenters were scheduled to make over 160 presentations. The vendor hall was completely booked by the first of September, and some vendors were turned away.

Continental breakfasts, lunches and snacks were provided to all who attended. The conference fees were set at $30 for participants, but WCSD employees had those fees waived. Over 600 signed up for the conference; however when attendance totals were calculated participant attendance was just at 500. Nearly 90 of those attending came from Iron County.

The conference hosted two keynote speakers: Milton Chen, a senior fellow and executive director emeritus of the George Lucas Educational Foundation, and Jaime Casap, an Education Evangelist at Google, Inc. Two presenting Authors were also in attendance and presented: Stephen “Pista” Nasser and Karl Beckstrand. The keynotes and the authors were big hits at the conference.

State Superintendent Shumway made the opening remarks at the conference and identified technology as playing a key role in the future of education in Utah. He also outlined his new Technology Standards for Public Education.

Both UEN and UCET sent large contingents of presenters. The regional service centers also sent presenters. The conference ran for two full days, and attendees continually commented on the high quality of presentations and the conference in general. The closing session was a prize give-away extravaganza with thousands of dollars in prizes given to those who stayed until the end.

We have received hundreds of positive comments about the conference from presenters, vendors and participants. I think it is safe to say most are planning to return next year. We have already begun to plan next year’s SUECON conference, and with the WCSD School Board’s approval we will have a minimum school day on Friday and then have the conference Friday and Saturday, October 26th and 27th. We would like to thank all those who participated and we hope to see you there next fall. Link: http://suecon.org/
Perfect Photo (iPhone App)


FREE for a LIMITED TIME.

Celebrating the beginning of International iPhoneography Show by FX Photo Studio app. Check details: www.iphoneographyshow.com

Perfect Photo is a handy tool for quick and powerful image editing on your iPhone and iPod touch. Make your pictures perfect in just few taps.

• 28 most essential editing tools & effects to improve your pictures on-the-go.
• Including RED EYE removal and SPOT healing tools
• Amazing design
• Intuitive interface
• Retina Support
• Save pictures to Photo Album, Documents folder, Clipboard
• Share pictures via Twitter, Flickr, Facebook, Tumblr E-mail
• Print Pictures from inside the App

EPSCalc


Free for a limited time: EPSCalc is a calculator optimized for complex calculation. This calculator allow you to see and modify all of your calculation steps.

You write sentence like this: ((23*7+345)*1.12-24)*0.2

And you will get result in the next line. = 116.64

Than you can easily modify input or even copy it to new line and get updated result. You can send calculation sheet by mail, clean it or open new one. Comments for result and for lines are available, so you won’t forget what you calculated and why.

Quickies (Rated 4)


Quickies is a 3-in-1 application providing todo lists, notes, and reminders. The beauty of Quickies is the absence of too many bells and whistles, allowing you to quickly “get in” and “get out”.

Quick Todo allows you to make simple todo lists. Just create and name your list and add in your todos. The no frills design of Quickies allows you to edit lists and check off items with ease.

Need to write something down on the fly? Create a Quick Note with a simple title and a brief description that you can access anytime.

Using the iPhone calendar for reminders can be time consuming to create. With Quick Reminder, you get a simple interface to create reminders quickly and easily.
TEDx New York - Will Richardson

Link: http://tedxtalks.ted.com/video/TEDxNYED-Will-Richardson-030520

Will Richardson is the author of the highly ranked and read edublog Weblogg-ed[1] and author of the book, Blogs, Wikis, Podcasts, and other Powerful Web Tools for Classrooms.[2] Richardson is also active on the web, he has both a twitter and Youtube channel.

Richardson is now an independent presenter and owner of Connective Learning, LLC. He promotes the implementation of Read/Write technologies in K-12 classrooms. He is also an advocate for school reform which encourages the integration of technology in learning. He was also recently named to the National Advisory Board for the George Lucas Education Foundation. Along with Sheryl Nussbaum-Beach, he is co-owner of Powerful Learning Practice, a company that delivers job-embedded, year-long professional development to schools worldwide around the pedagogies of Web 2.0 tools.

District Administration magazine publishes a quarterly column by Richardson titled The Online Edge.

Richardson has been part of a panel presentation at the 2006 Milken Global Conference and has given presentations all over the world. Wikipedia

In this TEDx talk, Will presents about how test prep does not equal learning, how, through technology, we have over 2 billion potential teachers, as well as the sum of all knowledge available at our fingertips, and how education must a new focus to achieve learning.

Need some inspiration??? Try watching these...

Johnny Lee Demonstrates WII Remote Hacks

Link: http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/johnny_lee_demos_wii_remote_hacks.html

Building sophisticated educational tools out of cheap parts, Johnny Lee demos his cool Wii Remote hacks, which turn the $40 video game controller into a digital whiteboard, a touchscreen and a head-mounted 3-D viewer.

Steve Jobs: How to Live Before You Die

Link: http://www.ted.com/talks/steve_jobs_how_to_live_before_you_die.html

At his Stanford University commencement speech, Steve Jobs, CEO and co-founder of Apple and Pixar, urges us to pursue our dreams and see the opportunities in life’s setbacks -- including death itself. Last month, Steve passed away from complications of pancreatic cancer. He was only 56 years old.

If you haven’t watched this commencement address, it’s certainly worth listening to.
Wireless data from every light bulb

Link: http://www.ted.com/talks/harald_haas_wireless_data_from.every_light_bulb.html

What if every light bulb in the world could also transmit data? At TEDGlobal, Harald Haas demonstrates, for the first time, a device that could do exactly that. By flickering the light from a single LED, a change too quick for the human eye to detect, he can transmit far more data than a cellular tower -- and do it in a way that’s more efficient, secure and widespread.

Harald Haas is the pioneer behind a new type of light bulb that can communicate as well as illuminate -- access the Internet using light instead of radio waves.

He concludes his speech with: “So, all we would need to do is to fit a small microchip to every potential illumination device. And this would then combine two basic functionalities: illumination and wireless data transmission. And it’s this symbiosis that I personally believe could solve the four essential problems that face us in wireless communication these days. And in the future, you would not only have 14 billion light bulbs, you may have 14 billion Li-Fis deployed worldwide -- for a cleaner, a greener, and even a brighter future.”

The Fun Theory (.com)

Link: http://www.thefuntheory.com/

From their website: This site is dedicated to the thought that something as simple as fun is the easiest way to change people’s behaviour for the better. Be it for yourself, for the environment, or for something entirely different, the only thing that matters is that it’s change for the better.

Examples: The Piano Staircase: “Take the stairs instead of the escalator or elevator and feel better” is something we often hear or read in the Sunday papers. Few people actually follow that advice. Can we get more people to take the stairs over the escalator by making it fun to do? See the results here.

The World’s Deepest Bin: To throw rubbish in the bin instead of onto the floor shouldn’t really be so hard. Many people still fail to do so. Can we get more people to throw rubbish into the bin, rather than onto the ground, by making it fun to do? See the results here.

The Speed Camera Lottery: The winning idea of the fun theory award, submitted by Kevin Richardson, USA. Can we get more people to obey the speed limit by making it fun to do? This was the question Kevin’s idea answered and it was so good that Volkswagen, together with The Swedish National Society for Road Safety, actually made this innovative idea a reality in Stockholm, Sweden.

Bottle Bank Arcade Machine: Many of us return our plastic bottles and cans. Noticeably fewer recycle their glass. Maybe that’s because we don’t get any money in return, as we do for cans and plastic. Can we change this attitude by making recycling glass fun to do? So you are not just rewarded with a good conscience, you also get a smile. See the results here.
An Easy Way to Create Your Own Website - Weebly.com

Link: http://www.weebly.com/

I have been training high school teachers from all over the world the past six weeks. One of the skills they wanted to learn was to create and manage their own website. I searched for an easy way to do this, and came across Weebly - a site that lets you create your own website - and it's incredibly easy to use.

From their website:

“Building a website on Weebly is unlike anything you’ve ever experienced. Our drag & drop website builder makes it dead simple to create a powerful, professional website without any technical skills required. Over 6 million people and small businesses have joined Weebly to build their online presence.

Content elements (like text, photos, maps, and videos) are added to your website by simply dragging & dropping them into place. Text is edited just like in a word processor. Building your website is done in real time, right from within your web browser. There’s absolutely nothing to install and no upgrades to worry about.

In 2007, Weebly was named one of TIME Magazine’s 50 Best Websites of the year. Since then, we’ve stayed true to our original goal – providing you with the easiest and most intuitive way to build your web presence. With Weebly, creating a website is an easy & fun experience that lets you express your creativity without letting technical hurdles slow you down.”

Within an hour of starting to use Weebly, I created a quick website using one of hundreds of professionally designed templates. Have a look.

Link: http://nmsmith.weebly.com

NASA to Perform Student Experiments For Whole World To See

NASA is providing support to Space Adventures, Ltd. of Vienna, Va., to conduct a global competition for students to design experiments that will be performed in space and broadcast around the world. Contest entrants may submit up to three experiments in either life sciences or physics. They must submit a two-minute video application by Dec. 7 via YouTube.com. The public will be able to follow the competition and watch the experiments via video streaming on YouTube's website.

You can find more information about how to enter the competition or to submit a video application at http://www.youtube.com/SpaceLab.


2012 High-Altitude Student Platform Opportunity

NASA is accepting applications from students at U.S. colleges and universities who want to send experiments to the edge of space on a high-flying scientific balloon.

The annual NASA project provides near-space access for 12 undergraduate and graduate student experiments to be carried by a NASA high-altitude research balloon. The flights typically last 15 to 20 hours and reach an altitude of 23 miles. Experiments may include compact satellites or prototypes.

The experiments are flown aboard the High Altitude Student Platform, or HASP, a balloon-borne instrument stack launched from the Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility’s remote site in Fort Sumner, N.M. The goals of the project are to provide a space test platform to encourage student research and stimulate the development of student satellite payloads and other space-engineering products.

HASP seeks to enhance the technical skills and research abilities of students in critical science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines. The project is a joint effort between NASA and the Louisiana Space Grant Consortium.

The deadline for applications is Dec. 16, 2011.

For application information and technical details about the program, visit http://laspace.lsu.edu/hasp.

Questions about the High-Altitude Student Platform opportunity should be directed to T. Gregory Guzik at guzik@phunds.phys.lsu.edu.
May the warmth of hearth and home fill your hearts with joy this holiday season!

Merry Christmas from the UCET Board!

Needed! Presenters and Student Showcases for UCET 2012

**Presenter Registration Link:** https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dEhSYmNldESVT11MRXQ5N0JXX2xOVVE6MQ

**Student Showcase Registration Link:** https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dFV3dlZCTHRoSTU2WGNMYjlBUHQ2b2c6MQ

UCET 2012 needs you! Teachers, we would like to invite you and your students to participate in the 2012 UCET Student Showcase. Many of you dynamically infuse your curriculum with technology that promotes high quality instruction and learning. You have a lot you can offer other teachers, and we would like you to share with us, and bring some of your students to UCET. There are a number of ways you can participate - so please contact Jethro Jones, UCET Board member in charge of the Student Showcase - jethro.jones@canyonsdistrict.org

We are currently accepting proposals for presentations. The deadline for proposals is December 15, but we may need to extend that a little. Presenting at UCET is an excellent opportunity to share your exceptional work in the classroom. UCET needs people like you! As a thank you, your UCET 2012 registration fee will be waived. The topic this year is “Going for the Gold.” The range of topics is broad - anything that involves using technology to support high quality instruction, to help students reach higher and achieve more. If you have questions about presenting, please direct them to Bonnie Muir, last year’s UCET President, who is in charge of presentations this year - bmmuir@gmail.com.

Special Christmas Edition!
John Wooden on True Success

Link: http://www.ted.com/talks/john_wooden_on_the_difference_between_winning_and_success.html

Born in 1910, Coach John Wooden was the first person to be inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame both as a player and coach, while ESPN ranks him as the greatest coach of all time, across all sports. In his 40 years at UCLA, he mentored legends such as Bill Walton and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. He has created a model, the Pyramid of Success, and authored several books to impart his insight on achievement to others.

Coach wanted his players to be victors in life and not just on the court, so he treated them as an extended family and emphasized that winning was more than scoring. Indeed, most of his inspiring theories were born from conversations with his father, as a boy on their farm in Indiana. One that sums up his ideology quite well is his often-quoted definition of success: “Success is peace of mind which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you made the effort to become the best that you are capable of becoming.”

“Coach Wooden is a humble, private man who has selflessly given up his life to make other people’s lives better ... John Wooden gave us the necessary tools to overcome the adversity and obstacles that he knew from the beginning would always be in our way. He taught us to find a source of motivation to inspire us to ever higher levels of preparation and work.”

Bill Walton
http://www.coachwooden.com/

Note: This is the transcript of a TED talk (use the TED.com link above to watch it) Coach gave in 2001. In this special Christmas edition of the UCET newsletter, I wanted to share with and inspire you with his wisdom. It inspired me... (Nathan Smith)

I coined my own definition of success in 1934, when I was teaching at a high school in South Bend, Indiana, being a little bit disappointed, and delusioned perhaps, by the way parents of the youngsters in my English classes expected their youngsters to get an A or a B. They thought a C was all right for the neighbors’ children, because the neighbors children are all average. But they weren’t satisfied when their own — would make the teacher feel that they had failed, or the youngster had failed. And that’s not right. The good Lord in his infinite wisdom didn’t create us all equal as far as intelligence is concerned, any more than we’re equal for size, appearance. Not everybody could earn an A or a B, and I didn’t like that way of judging it.

And I did know how the alumni of various schools back in the 30s judged coaches and athletic teams. If you won them all, you were considered to be reasonably successful -- not completely. Because I found out -- we had a number of years at UCLA where we didn’t lose a game. But it seemed that we didn’t win each individual game by the margin that some of our alumni had predicted and quite frequently I -- (Laughter) -- quite frequently I really felt that they had backed up their predictions in a more materialistic manner. But that was true back in the 30s, so I understood that. But I didn’t like it. And I didn’t agree with it. And I wanted to come up with something that I hoped could make me a better teacher, and give the youngsters under my supervision -- whether it be in athletics or in the English classroom -- something to which to aspire, other than just a higher mark in the classroom, or more points in some athletic contest.

I thought about that for quite a spell, and I wanted to come up with my own definition. I thought that might help. And I knew how Mr. Webster defined it: as the accumulation of material possessions or the attainment of a position of power or prestige, or something of that sort -- worthy accomplishments perhaps, but in my opinion not necessarily indicative of success. So I wanted to come up with something of my own.

And I recalled -- I was raised on a small farm in Southern Indiana and Dad tried to teach me and my brothers that you should never try to be better than someone else. I’m sure at the time he did that, I didn’t -- it didn’t -- well, somewhere, I guess in the hidden recesses of mind, it popped out years later. Never try to be better than someone else, always learn from others. Never cease trying to be the best you can be -- that’s under your control. If you get too engrossed and involved and concerned in regard to the things over which you have no control, it will adversely affect the things over which you have control. Then I ran across this simple verse that said, “At God’s footstool to confess, a poor soul knelt, and bowed his head. ‘I failed!’ He cried. The Master said, ‘Thou didst thy best, that is success.’”

From those things, and one other perhaps, I coined my own definition of success, which is: peace of mind attained only through self-satisfaction in knowing you made the effort to do the best of which you’re capable. I believe that’s true. If you make the effort to do the best of which you’re capable, to try and improve the situation that exists for you, I think that’s success. And I don’t think others can judge that. I think it’s like character and reputation. Your reputation is what you are perceived to be; your character is what you really are. And I think that character is much more important than what you are perceived to be. You’d hope they’d both be good, but they won’t necessarily be the same. Well, that was my idea that I was going to try to get across to the youngsters.

I ran across other things. I love to teach, and it was mentioned by the previous speaker that I enjoy poetry, and I dabble in it a bit, and love it. There are some things that helped me, I think, be better than I would have been. I know I’m not what I ought to be, not what I should be. But I think I’m better than I would have been if I hadn’t run across certain things. One was just a little verse that said.

“No written word, no spoken plea can teach our youth what they should be. Nor all the books on all the shelves -- it’s what the teachers are themselves.”

That made an impression on me in the 1930s. And I tried to use that more or less in my teaching, whether it be in sports, or whether it be in the English classroom. I love poetry and always had an interest in that somehow. Maybe it’s because Dad used to read to us at night. Coal oil lamp -- we didn’t have electricity in our farm home. And Dad would read poetry to us. So I always liked it. And about the same time I ran across this one verse, I ran across another one. Someone asked a lady teacher why she taught. And she -- after some time, she said she wanted to think about that. Then she came up and said.

“They ask me why I teach and I reply, ‘Where
could I find such splendid company? There sits a statesman, strong, unbiased, wise; another Daniel Webster, silver-tongued. A doctor sits beside him, whose quick steady hand may mend a bone, or stem the life-blood’s flow. And there a builder. Upward rise the arch of a church he builds, wherein that minister may speak the word of God and lead a stumbling soul to touch the Christ. And all about a gathering of teachers, farmers, merchants, laborers: those who work and vote and build and plan and pray into a great tomorrow. And I may say, I may not see the church, or hear the word or eat the food their hands may grow. But yet again I may. And later I may say, I knew him once, and he was weak, or strong, or bold or proud or gay. I knew him once, but then he was a boy. They ask me why I teach and I reply, ‘Where could I find such splendid company?’

And I believe the teaching profession — it’s true, you have so many youngsters. And I’ve got to think of my youngsters at UCLA — 30-some attorneys, 11 dentists and doctors, many, many teachers and other professions. And that gives you a great deal of pleasure, to see them go on. I always tried to make the youngsters feel that they’re there to get an education, number one. Basketball was second, because it was paying their way, and they do need a little time for social activities, but you let social activities take a little precedence over the other two and you’re not going to have any very long. So that was the ideas that I tried to get across to the youngsters under my supervision.

I had three rules, pretty much, that I stuck with practically all the time. I’d learned these prior to coming to UCLA, and I decided they were very important. One was — never be late. Never be late. Later on I said certain things — I had — players, if we’re leaving for somewhere, had to be neat and clean. There was a time when I made them wear jackets and shirts and ties. Then I saw our chancellor coming to school in denims and turtlenecks, and I thought, not right for me to keep this other. So let them — just they had to be neat and clean. I had one of my greatest players that you probably heard of, Bill Walton. He came to catch the bus; we were leaving for somewhere to play. And he wasn’t clean and neat, so I wouldn’t let him go. He couldn’t get on the bus. He had to go home and get cleaned up to get to the airport. So I was a stickler for that. I believed in that. I believe in time — very important. I believe you should be on time. But I felt at practice, for example, we start on time, we close on time. The youngsters didn’t have to feel that we were going to keep them over.

When I speak at coaching clinics, I often tell young coaches — and at coaching clinics, more or less, they’ll be the younger coaches getting in the profession. Most of them are young, you know, and probably newly married. And I tell them, “Don’t run practices late. Because you’ll go home in a bad mood. And that’s not good, for a young married man to go home in a bad mood. When you get older, it doesn’t make any difference.” But —

(Laughter)

So I did believe on time. I believe starting on time, and I believe closing on time. And another one I had was, not one word of profanity. One word of profanity, and you are out of here for the day. If I see it in a game, you’re going to come out and sit on the bench. And the third one was, never criticize a teammate. I didn’t want that. I used to tell them I was paid to do that. That’s my job. I’m paid to do it. Pitifully poor, but I am paid to do it. Not like the coaches today, for gracious sakes, no. It’s a little different than it was in my day. Those were three things that I stuck with pretty closely all the time. And those actually came from my dad. That’s what he tried to teach me and my brothers at one time.

I came up with a pyramid eventually, that I don’t have the time to go on that. But that helped me, I think, become a better teacher. It’s something like this: And I had blocks in the pyramid, and the cornerstones being industriousness and enthusiasm, working hard and enjoying what you’re doing, coming up to the apex according to my definition of success. And right at the top — faith and patience. And I say to you, in whatever you’re doing, you must be patient. You have to have patience to — we want things to happen. We talk about our youth being impatient a lot. And they are. They want to change everything. They think all change is progress. And we get a little older — we sort of let things go. And we forget there is no progress without change. So you must have patience. And I believe that we must have faith. I believe that we must believe, truly believe. Not just give it word service; believe that things will work out as they should, providing we do what we should. I think our tendency is to hope that things will turn out the way we want them to much of the time. But we don’t do the things that are necessary to make those things become reality. I worked on this for some 14 years, and I think it helped me become a better teacher. But it all revolved around that original definition of success.

You know a number of years ago, there was a Major League Baseball umpire by the name of George Moriarty. He spelled Moriarty with only one ‘i’. I’d never seen that before, but he did. Big league baseball players — they’re very perceptive about those things, and they noticed he had only one ‘i’ in his name. You’d be surprised how many also told him that that was one more than he had in his head at various times.

(Laughter)

But he wrote something that I think he did while I tried to do in this pyramid. He called it "The Road Ahead, or the Road Behind." “Sometimes I think the Fates must grin as we denounce them and insist the only reason we can’t win, is the Fates themselves that miss. Yet there lives on the ancient claim: we win or lose within ourselves. The shining trophies on our shelves can never win tomorrow’s game. You and I know deeper down, there’s always a chance to win the crown. But when we fail to give our best, we simply haven’t met the test, of giving all and saving none until the game is really won; of showing what is meant by grit; of playing through when others quit; of playing through, not letting up. It’s bearing down that wins the cup. Of dreaming there’s a goal ahead; of hoping when our dreams are dead; of praying when our hopes have fled. Yet losing, not afraid to fall, if bravely we have given all. For who can ask more of a man than giving all within his span. Giving all, it seems to me, is not so far from victory. And so the fates are seldom wrong, no matter how they twist and wind. It’s you and I who make our fates — we open up or close the gates on the road ahead or the road behind.”

Reminds me of another set of threes that my dad tried to get across to us. Don’t whine. Don’t complain. Don’t make excuses. Just get out there, and whatever you’re doing, do it to the best of your ability. And no one can do more than that. I tried to get across, too, that — my opponents don’t tell you — you never heard me mention winning. Never mention winning. My idea is that you can lose when you outscore somebody in a game. And you can win when you’re outscored. I’ve felt that way on certain occasions, at various times. And I just wanted them to be able to hold their head up after a game. I used to say that when a game is over, and you see somebody that didn’t know the outcome, I hope they couldn’t tell by your actions whether you outscored an opponent or the opponent outscored you.

That’s what really matters: if you make effort
to do the best you can regularly, the results will be about what they should be. Not necessary to what you would want them to be, but they will be about what they should, and only you will know whether you can do that. And that’s what I wanted from them more than anything else. And as time went by, and I learned more about other things, I think it worked a little better, as far as the results. But I wanted the score of a game to be the byproduct of these other things, and not the end itself. I believe it was — one great philosopher said — no, no, Cervantes. Cervantes said, “The journey is better than the end.” And I like that. I think that is — it’s getting there. Sometimes when you get there, there’s almost a letdown. But there’s getting there that’s the fun. I liked our — as a basketball coach at UCLA I liked our practices to be the journey, and the game would be the end. The end result. I’d like to go up and sit in the stands and watch the players play, and see whether I’d done a decent job during the week. There again, it’s getting the players to get that self-satisfaction, in knowing that they’d made the effort to do the best of which they are capable.

Sometimes I’m asked who was the best player I had, or the best teams. I can never answer that, as far as the individuals are concerned. I was asked one time about that, and they said, “Suppose that you in some way could make the perfect player. What would you want?” And I said, “Well, I’d want one that knew why he was at UCLA: to get an education, he was a good student, really knew why he was there in the first place. But I’d want one that could play, too. I’d want one to realize that defense usually wins championships, and would work hard on defense. But I’d want one that would play offense too. I’d want him to be unselfish, and look for the pass first and not shoot all the time. And I’d want one that could pass and would pass. (Laughter)
I’ve had some that could and wouldn’t, and I’ve had some that would and couldn’t. (Laughter)
I wanted them to be able to shoot from the outside. I wanted them to be good inside too. (Laughter)
I wanted them to be able to rebound well at both ends, too. And why not just take someone like Keith Wilkes and let it go at that. He had the qualifications. Not the only one, but he was one that I used in that particular category, because I think he made the effort to become the best [unclear].

I mention in my book, “They Call Me Coach.” Two players that gave me great satisfaction; that came as close as I think anyone I ever had to reach their full potential: one was Conrad Burke. And one was Doug McIntosh. When I saw them as freshmen, on our freshmen team — we didn’t have freshmen then. I thought, “Oh gracious, if these two players, either one of them” — they were different years, but I thought about each one at the time he was there — “Oh, if he ever makes the varsity, our varsity must be pretty miserable, if he’s good enough to make it.” And you know one of them was a starting player for a season and a half. The other was — his next year, he played 32 minutes in a national championship game, did a tremendous job for us. And the next year, he was a starting player on the national championship team. And here I thought he’d never play a minute, when he was — so those are the things that give you great joy, and great satisfaction to see one. Neither one of those youngsters could shoot very well. But they had outstanding shooting percentages, because they didn’t force it. And neither one could jump very well, but they got — kept good position, and so they did well rebounding. They remembered that every shot that is taken, they assumed would be missed. I’ve had too many that stand around and wait to see if it’s missed, then they go and it’s too late. Somebody else is in there ahead of them. And they weren’t very quick, but they played good position, kept in good balance. And so they played pretty good defense for us. So they had qualities that — they came close to — as close to reaching possibly their full potential as any players I ever had. So I consider them to be as successful as Lewis Alcindor or Bill Walton, or many of the others that we had. There was some outstanding — some outstanding players.

Have I rambled enough? I was told that when he makes his appearance, I was supposed to shut up. (Laughter) (Applause)
Find these classic children’s Christmas records and over 400 others at http://kiddierecords.com
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You can find lots of Christmas music online. Pandora, AOL Radio, Live 365, and LastFM are just a few of the streaming music sites that have Christmas channels.

The "Feels Like Christmas" site pictured above has over 180 free and legal holiday music downloads in MP3 format.

The eCard sites at the top of the page allow you to email animated Christmas cards to your friends and family. The PunchBowl site (pictured at the top right with the free Music Angel card) offers both free and paid cards.
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