

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY NEWSLINE

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August 2008: Volume 9, Number 10

[Newline Submission Guidelines](#)

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INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY SECTION UPDATE

This issue of Newsline provides valuable information to help schools prepare for and realize a successful school year for 2008-09. August topics of interest include effective technology integration and alternative school projects, role of ePeGS in writing approvable technology plans, release of ISTE's new ed-tech standards for teachers, a free resource for student technology literacy assessment, bandwidth and online learning guides, updates from Missouri ed-tech partners, upcoming events and deadlines, and links to a variety of reports, free online resources, and more. -- Deborah S. Sutton

DESE Budgets / Grant Programs

FY09 Education Technology Programs <No news to report>

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/>

Federal Title II.D Competitive Grants

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/federalfunded/TitleIID/>

See the program website for listings of the approved applications and project descriptions. Eight first-year and eight continuation grants have been awarded to support school-wide and/or district-wide eMINTS implementation models, designed to meet local educational needs.

State eMINTS/METS School Grants

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/METS%20School%20Grant%20Pgrm/index.html>.

See the program website for listings of the approved applications and project descriptions. Five (5) grants have been awarded to support school-wide eMINTS implementation models to improve teaching and learning, with focusing on mathematics and/or science instruction.

FY09 State Safe Schools Program <No news to report>

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/safeschools/index.html>.

See the program website for listings of the approved applications and project descriptions. Nine first-year and 31 continuation (five second-year, 26 third-year, and one fourth-year) grants have been awarded to support district and/or consortium alternative school programs designed to meet the educational needs of targeted students (those exhibiting violent, abusive, and chronically disruptive behaviors).

MOREnet K-12 Technology Networking Program (TNP)

<http://www.more.net/programs/k12tnp/index.html>

MOREnet had opened registration for the 2008 MOREnet Instructional Technology

Research, Publications, Resources

- ISTE's new tech standards for teachers
- New ED guide for evaluating online learning
- New NACOL guidance for online learning and at-risk students
- SETDA student engagement toolkit
- New site for creating web-based learning games and tests for students
- New open source math curricula on Curriki
- New "21st Century Skills and Social Studies Map"
- New online clearinghouse for American history teachers
- Free K-12 content available through iTunes U
- New PBS online community for educators
- New podcasts for school administrators
- Guide to low-cost ed-tech resources targets after-school programs

eMINTS Update

- eMINTS in Delaware
- eMINTS partners with Tech4Learning
- Subscribe to eMINTS news and updates via RSS feed

Conference to be held October 5-7 in Osage Beach, Missouri. DESE Instructional Technology staff will present a pre-conference session on Sunday on "Using ePeGS to create an effective tech plan." [Additional details provided in section below.]

Technology Plans and Data Collection

Technology Plan State Approval – 280 Districts will need to submit plans for state approval in spring 2009, using the new online ePeGS planning tool

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/index.htm>

According to Instructional Technology records, 283 districts and charter LEAs will need to have new technology plans approved by the Department next spring. These districts are reminded that technology plans submitted for approval in April 2009 must be completed online via the Department's new electronic Planning and electronic Grants System (ePeGS). This planning tool is designed to help districts develop, implement, and evaluate long-range plans such as the district comprehensive school improvement plan (CSIP), education technology plan, Perkins plan, and other required plans. Note that because technology plans must be aligned to district CSIPs (or Charters), they cannot be developed or entered into ePeGS in isolation – the CSIP must be entered first or at the same time as the technology plan.

Technology Planning Workshops

Instructional Technology staff will host presentations on "Using ePeGS to create an effective education technology plan" at the following conferences:

- DESE Federal Programs Conference breakout session #207, Monday, September 8, 2008, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. This is 75-minute general overview of the technology plan approval requirements and how to navigate the ePeGS system.
- MOREnet Instructional Technology Conference pre-conference session F00A, Sunday, October 5, 2008, from 1:15 to 4:15 PM. This is a three-hour session for attendees to learn about the technology plan approval requirements, writing effective objectives, strategies and actions steps, and how to navigate the ePeGS system. A wireless lab will be available. Attendees are encouraged to bring laptops and copies of their [current or drafted] CSIP and ed-tech plans for review, technical assistance, and data entry. [Note that attendees must have ePeGS security permission to enter data. Download and complete [DESE Web Systems User ID Request Forms](#) on the ePeGs web site at: <http://dese.mo.gov/epegs/>.]

Technology Planning Resources

- To determine whether your district must submit a new technology plan in April 2009, visit: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/districtstatus.htm>.
- For examples of how districts can "integrate" technology into CSIPs to create effective long-range technology plans, see: http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/Ed_Tech_Strategies_for_ePeGS_Goals_Nov_07.pdf.
- To access additional planning information and resources (such as approval checklist and score guide, the state ed-tech plan, planning tips and templates, and links to exemplary plans), visit the District Planning website, at: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/>.

Core Data Census of Technology

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/statefunded/census/>

Instructional Technology has completed the data submission process and is in the

- eMINTS events on the website

MOREnet Update

- 2008 MOREnet Instructional Technology Conference (MITC)
- Technology Disaster Recovery Checklist
- MOREnet Bandwidth Upgrade Information

Regular Featured Items

- Upcoming Conferences
- Grant Funding Opportunities
- Contests, Awards, and Fundraisers
- Mark Your Calendar
- From the Mailbag
- Websites of Interest
- Newest eTHEMES
- Updated eTHEMES

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process of analyzing the data. The expectation is to have the state summary report completed in late August. Districts are reminded that COT data are used internally for planning and evaluation purposes and to report progress in meeting the goals and objectives of the Missouri Education Technology Strategic Plan to the Missouri General Assembly and the U.S. Department of Education.

STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS

Free NETS-S Student Technology Assessment

InfoSource Learning announced recently that all school districts, state departments, and educational organizations can receive the SimpleAssessment for Student Technology Proficiency free of charge for all students. The SimpleAssessment, which originally retailed for \$10 a student, was created to meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act which stipulates that all students must be technologically literate by the time the student finishes the eighth grade. School districts across the country have been struggling to find an efficient way to assess the technology literacy of their students, and the SimpleAssessment takes the hassle out of assessment and is mapped to the National Educational Technology Standards (NETS) for Students.

To receive the assessment free of charge, contact **Fletcher Rosenbaum at 1-800-393-4636 ext. 204** or sign up on the website at <http://www.simpleassessment.com/>. Please mention that you saw this article in the DESE newsletter. To ensure that your school's testing site is set up in time to begin assessment in the fall, please sign up as soon as possible.

Governor urges participation in cell-phone emergency contact initiative

On July 29, Governor Blunt encouraged Missourians to participate in the In-Case-of-Emergency (ICE) cell phone initiative. The campaign encourages Missourians to enter emergency contact information into their cell phones, and label the entry "ICE." First responders, emergency service personnel, law enforcement and bystanders will quickly be able to access that information should a citizen become a victim. ICE was created for emergency situations when a victim is unable to tell first responders their medical or contact information.

E-RATE PROGRAM

FCC directs USAC to carry forward \$600 million to FY 2008 <Reminder>

The FCC announced that \$600 million in unused E-rate funds from FY2002 thru FY2004 will be added to FY2008. With the transfer, the projection is for Priority 2 requests to be funded in the mid-to-low 80% discount range.

Funding Year 2008 FCDLs

USAC released FY2008 (School Year 2008-09) **Wave 16** Funding Commitment Letters (FCDLs) **July 29, 2008**. This wave includes funding commitments for approved Priority 1 requests (Telecommunications Services and Internet Access) for schools and libraries at all discount levels. To-date, FY2008 commitments total \$1 billion. See: <http://www.sl.universalservice.org/funding/y2008/national.asp>.

On the day after the FCDLs are mailed, applicants can check to see if they have commitments by using USAC's Automated Search of Commitments tool at: <http://www.sl.universalservice.org/funding/>.

Funding Year 2007 FCDLs

USAC released FY2007 (School Year 2007-08) **Wave 58** FCDLs **July 28, 2008**. This wave includes commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance requests at/above 81% and denials at/below 80%. To-date, FY2007 commitments total over \$2.4 billion. See: <http://www.sl.universalservice.org/funding/y2007/national.asp>.

RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, RESOURCES

ISTE's new tech standards for teachers

At its most recent National Educational Computing Conference (NECC), the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) unveiled the 2008 iteration of Educational Technology Standards. The new standards embrace the flattening world paradigm where students and teachers have nearly equal access to information and collaboration and sharing of knowledge is occurring worldwide. As a result, the new standards “emphasize the need for teachers to facilitate and inspire student learning and creativity, to design and develop digital-age learning experiences and assessments, to model digital-age work and learning, to promote and model digital citizenship and responsibility, and to engage in professional growth and leadership.”

The "NETS for Teachers, Second Edition" includes five categories, each with its own set of performance indicators: (1) Facilitate and inspire student learning and creativity, (2) Design and develop digital-age learning experiences and assessments, (3) Model digital-age work and learning, (4) Promote and model digital citizenship and responsibility, and (5) Engage in professional growth and leadership. Under the category "facilitate and inspire student learning and creativity," for example, there are four performance indicators: (1) Promote, support, and model creative and innovative thinking, (2) Engage students in exploring real-world issues and solving authentic problems using digital tools and resources, (3) promote student reflection using collaborative tools, and (4) model collaborative knowledge construction by engaging in learning with students.

For every performance indicator within each category, ISTE has included a rubric that describes what meeting the standard would look like at four levels of proficiency: beginning, developing, proficient, and transformative. The "transformative" proficiency level is new to the revised standards and indicative of ISTE's more recently articulated focus on really transforming education through the use of technology, not just layering technology over traditional educational practices. See: http://www.iste.org/Content/NavigationMenu/NETS/ForTeachers/NETS_for_Teachers.htm.

New ED guide for evaluating online learning

“Evaluating Online Learning: Challenges and Strategies for Success” – Prepared by WestEd and Edvance Research, Inc., this recently released guide from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) is a resource for leaders and evaluators of K-12 online learning programs, defined as a range of education programs and resources that includes distance learning courses offered by universities, private providers, or teachers at other schools; stand-alone “virtual schools” that provide students with a full array of online courses and services; and educational websites that offer teachers, parents, and students a range of resources. The guide articulates the challenges of evaluating online learning and provides general and specific recommendations to address them. The guide also features seven types of evaluations that are varied in scope, design and program content as lessons for planning evaluations. See: <http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/academic/evalonline/evalonline.pdf>

New NACOL guidance for online learning and at-risk students

The North American Council for Online Learning (NACOL) released a new resource titled *“Using Online Learning for At-Risk Students and Credit Recovery”* – the second report in the 2008 Promising Practices series that highlights case studies and promising practices for K-12 online learning. According to this new report, the promise of using online learning in providing an alternative method of instruction for at-risk students is demonstrated by the increasing number of school districts implementing online curriculum with at-risk students and dropouts, and the success of many of these online credit recovery programs. See: http://www.nacol.org/docs/NACOL_CreditRecovery_PromisingPractices.pdf.

SETDA student engagement toolkit

On June 30, 2008, SETDA released a free, online resource that helps teachers use technology to engage students more effectively in core subject areas like math, science, social studies and reading. The tool *“Teacher’s and Technology’s Role in Student Engagement”* addresses the need for all teachers to use rigorous digital content and new teaching strategies to increase student engagement. See: <http://www.setda.org/web/toolkit2008/student-engagement>.

New site for creating web-based learning games and tests for students

Education by Design launched a new website called Learning Impulse, a free interactive learning tool that elementary

RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, RESOURCES cont'd.

level educators can use to create games, tests, and quizzes that reinforce lessons and information taught in the classroom. Besides enabling teachers to create games, Learning Impulse also allows students to create their own user accounts and check their scores on the games they've played and teachers can view reports of their students' scores and track progress. See: <http://www.hotchalk.com>.

New open source math curricula on Curriki

The Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC), a global nonprofit research organization known for its teaching tools and professional development, announced on June 30 at NECC that it will team up with Curriki, an online community for creating and sharing open source K-12 curricula. To start, Curriki will make available EDC's standards-based middle-grades algebra course, allowing teachers to not only access the free curricula, but to add to it or adapt it for use in their classrooms.

EDC's online mathematics course Building Algebraic Thinking in the Middle Grades is specifically designed to build the expertise of teachers at the middle level, focusing on the algebraic concepts of patterns and functions. It was designed and developed by mathematics and curriculum specialists at EDC and funded by the National Science Foundation as part of a research initiative to explore the comparative benefits of online professional development. To access EDC's open source math curricula, visit <http://www.curriki.org>.

New "21st Century Skills and Social Studies Map"

The 21st Century Skills and Social Studies Map demonstrates how the integration of 21st century skills into social studies can support teaching and prepare students to become effective and productive citizens in the 21st century. Suggested lesson plans allow teachers to easily integrate the map into their curriculum and provide their students with a well-rounded educational experience to assist in preparing them for the 21st century. The map also cites specific student outcomes and provides project models that will result in enhanced student achievement in grades four, eight and twelve.

The map, developed by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21) and the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), details how to align teaching and learning to the demands of the 21st century by providing lesson examples that combine core skills like critical thinking, creativity and innovation with interdisciplinary themes (civic, economic and entrepreneurial literacy and global awareness). To access the map, visit the home page of the P21 website at <http://www.21stcenturyskills.org>.

New online clearinghouse for American history teachers

George Mason University received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to build and run an interactive website that trains the nation's elementary and high school history teachers in their craft. The new National History Educational Clearinghouse, funded by ED's Teaching American History program, supports professional development opportunities for teachers and includes features such as a searchable database of state history standards, customizable lesson plans, and online discussion forums with education experts on current trends in teaching American history. See: <http://teachinghistory.org>.

Free K-12 content available through iTunes U

A new section of Apple's iTunes U contains a wealth of free online content for K-12 educators. SETDA announced in June at NECC that the states of Arizona, Florida, Maine, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Utah – along with individual districts, museums, and other educational institutions – are now sharing resources not only for K-12 educators in their own states, but also for teachers around the world through Apple's iTunes U. This new K-12 initiative creates a place where professional development, curriculum resources, best practices, and samples of student work are easily accessible in a single location. [iTunes, a free software download for Macs or PCs, is required.] See: http://www.apple.com/support/itunes_u/.

New PBS online community for educators

In July PBS unveiled a new online community for preK-12 educators that supports the advancement of digital media content and technology integration in education. "PBS Teachers Connect" provides teachers, school library media specialists, technology coordinators, early childhood educators and other education professionals with opportunities to

RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, RESOURCES cont'd.

share ideas, collaborate and support the effective use of instructional technology and multimedia to enhance student learning. Built around the "PBS Teachers" Web portal to multimedia instructional resources and professional development services for preK-12 educators at no cost, educators can search more than 3,000 standards-based classroom activities, lesson plans, interactive resources and other materials, then easily bookmark, annotate, share and manage their tagged content within the PBS Teachers Connect community. Many of the resources feature PBS' award-winning programming and content, including on-demand streaming video from select PBS programs. See: <http://www.pbsteachers.org/connect/>.

New podcasts for school administrators

A new site sponsored by McGraw-Hill Education's Urban Advisory Resource offers advice on improving schools from superintendents and other education leaders across the country in an easily accessible format. The District Leader's Podcast features interviews each week with various experts, and school leaders can download the podcasts to a portable media player for listening on the go. Examples of topics covered include making the tough decisions, improving student performance, urban education, trends in education, and leadership. See: <http://www.districtleaderspodcast.org>.

Guide to low-cost ed-tech resources targets after-school programs

The National Partnership for Quality Afterschool Learning, with funding from ED, released a new online guide aimed at helping after-school educators make smart programmatic decisions. The Afterschool Curriculum Choice: Technology Resources collection is designed to help practitioners locate and make informed choices about high-quality technology resources to enrich their programs. For each resource, the guide describes the staff and planning needed to use the resource effectively, and discusses the standards, research, and evaluation related to the resource. Materials represent the wide variety of resources, from activity guides to online games to software packages, supporting compelling learning experiences in informal settings. The database helps identify a handful of the strongest materials from among the vast array of resources available. See: <http://www.sedl.org/afterschool/guide/technology>.

eMINTS UPDATE

submitted by Monica Beglau

eMINTS in Delaware

The eMINTS National Center is pleased to welcome the State of Delaware as the newest state to join the program. The Delaware Department of Education recently awarded three schools with Title II.D Enhancing Education Through Technology competitive grants to implement the eMINTS program in their schools. eMINTS staff will provide the Professional Development for Educational Technology Specialists (PD4ETS) "train-the-trainer" program to a group of staff development specialists identified by the schools involved. Delaware state standards will now be included with all newly published eThemes and upon request for eThemes already in the database.

eMINTS partners with Tech4Learning

eMINTS National Center recently announced a partnership with Tech4Learning, an educational technology company that develops and markets original professional development programs and creativity products for K-12 education.

Teachers currently enrolled in the Comprehensive eMINTS and the eMINTS4All professional development programs will have access to the Recipes and Snacks portions of the site beginning in late September 2008. Tech4Learning Recipes and Snacks help teachers learn and enhance their skills with common software. Tech4Learning also allows subscribed educators to create customized learning documents to help their students learn to use software.

Tech4Learning also offers many outstanding free resources for teachers, including a rubric-builder, a citation maker and a collection of royalty-free photographs for educational use. Visit <http://www.tech4learning.com> and click the link to Tools to explore all the free tools available.

Subscribe to eMINTS news and updates via RSS feed

Now you can use an RSS reader to receive notifications of eMINTS news and updates. Simply download an RSS

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reader (aggregator), then click the orange RSS icon on eMINTS webpages to subscribe to RSS feeds for news and podcasts.

New to RSS? Find a brief video and links to more information about feeds and feed readers from <http://www.emints.org/news/index.shtml#rss>.

eMINTS events on the website

Find detailed information about upcoming eMINTS events, links to register or RSVP, and maps and driving directions to event locations, all available from the eMINTS National Center website – <http://www.emints.org/events>.

MOREnet UPDATE

submitted by Eric Nicklas

2008 MOREnet Instructional Technology Conference (MITC)

Online registration has opened so do not miss the early-bird registration to get the sessions of your choice. <http://www.more.net/conferences/mitc/index.html>

Registration Information:

Early Bird Registration	July 14-Aug. 24	Member: \$275	Non-Member: \$375
Standard Registration	Aug. 25-Sept. 26	Member: \$325	Non-Member: \$425
Pre-Conference Sessions	Half day: \$85	Full day: \$170	

Reservations contact Tan-Tar-A at (800) 826-8272 or visit <http://www.tan-tar-a.com/>

MITC also has a Blog <http://mitc.more.net/>. Here is a new opportunity to see what MITC related messages are being posted by conference presenters and attendees. Check this site often as new posted could be added daily.

Technology Disaster Recovery Checklist

In response to the flooding in the Midwest, fires in California, and the coming hurricane season, the Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) has developed a "Disaster Recovery Checklist" <http://www.cosn.org/docs/CoSN%20-%20Disaster%20Recovery%20Checklist.pdf> that is available to all Ed Tech officials. Many districts have never experienced chaotic events before and the recovery process is often new, intimidating, and unorganized. This checklist provides a blueprint for immediate actions to be taken as school technology teams work to come back online, and is an essential piece of CoSN's new Crisis Preparedness Leadership Initiative.

This resources is provided as a courtesy by CoSN - Free to copy and distribute

1. Identify and contact personnel in charge of recovery efforts
 2. Identify and/or establish an Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
 3. Staff meeting
 4. Establish communication links
 5. Contact FEMA, district insurance company
 6. Inventory
 7. Contact critical technology vendors
 8. Re-establish payroll quickly
 9. Recover data
 10. Begin the clean-up process!
1. Identify and contact personnel in charge of recovery efforts – Establishing communications with recovery leaders is critical. These individuals can be at the school, district, or state level and may include your superintendent (or liaison), technology leaders, public relations staff, human resources, and maintenance personnel. These individuals may not normally be at the executive level, but all will be needed during recovery. TIP: Keep track of all hours worked by you and your staff. Wages that are not covered by the district will be compensated for by FEMA.

MOREnet UPDATE cont'd.

2. Identify and/or establish an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) – This location will be a place where you and fellow staff can meet. The EOC will also be the place where communication links are centralized and information is distributed to emergency personnel, school employees, and parents. This can be an office or another location that is not damaged and is accessible to all staff.
3. Staff meeting – Contact all staff to brief them of the situation (you may need to think beyond email and phone depending on damage). Identify who is available and who isn't. Hold a staff meeting to get everyone on the same page. Assign tasks for cleanup and a reporting structure. Establish a schedule for recovery team meetings. TIP: Break up your action items into long-term and short-term priorities. The list of tasks may seem overwhelming, but organization will help to keep moral high.
4. Establish communication links – Contact your utility and telecommunications providers and work to re-establish service. If re-connection is delayed, think about alternative modes of communicating (T.V., radio, flyers, etc.) Outside of your immediate technology staff, the districts' teachers, students, and parents will want to know what is happening so keep communicating.
5. Contact FEMA, district insurance company – FEMA has stringent rules to follow when you request emergency aid. Likewise, your insurance company will also have steps to follow to get compensation for damage. You must be aware of these rules and follow them closely to ensure the district receives compensation and support. TIP: Go to FEMA's Public Assistance Grant Program at: <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/pa/index.shtm>
6. Inventory – Before you begin cleanup, identify what is destroyed, damaged, or missing. It is absolutely imperative you photograph everything! While you take photo documentation, create a log listing what each picture is identifying. TIP: Document everything damaged – computers, servers, wiring, powerstrips, etc.
7. Contact critical technology vendors – You will need technology supplies and know how to get your network back online. Identify your critical needs and work to get those re-established first. Once you are up and running then you can begin to rebuild the entire network. TIP: Don't forget to contact software vendors. Records of licenses may have been lost, and vendors will help to identify what legally can be replaced.
8. Re-establish payroll quickly – Your community may have stopped moving due to this crisis, but the rest of the world is still operating. You and your staff need money to survive, so make payroll the top priority.
9. Recover data – The data contained on your old servers is invaluable. It may be lost, but often times it is recoverable. Many companies offer services to capture critical data from damaged servers. TIP: If your data is backed-up offsite, establish contact with the provider and alert them of the situation.
10. Begin the clean-up process!

Emergency Contact Information

Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) <http://www.fema.gov>
FEMA-Correspondence-Unit@dhs.gov Telephone: 1 (800) 621-FEMA (3362), Fax: 1 (800) 827-8112

The Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) is the country's premier voice for K-12 education leaders who use technology strategically to improve teaching and learning. If you are not a member of CoSN we strongly encourage you to join our vast network. For more information on becoming a member and membership benefits email info@cosn.org. For more essential CoSN resources, visit <http://www.CoSN.org> or call (866) 267-8747.

MOREnet Bandwidth Upgrade Information

School districts requesting a bandwidth upgrade will need to submit two online forms: (1) *Bandwidth Survey* and (2) *Connection Information Form*. The information gathered through these forms will provide necessary connection information and allow for better estimates of bandwidth needs by indicating current and future bandwidth use. These online forms are available at <http://www.more.net/services/connectivity/upgradeprocess.html>.

MOREnet UPDATE cont'd.

MOREnet will work closely with districts in determining the appropriate bandwidth needed to run the resources and applications used by the district.

Upgrade requests will be approved based on the following criteria:

- Request submitted within upgrade timeline
- Current district bandwidth use

The next deadlines for a bandwidth upgrade requests is **Sept. 30, 2008**, for bandwidth to be in place during Feb. 2009. Please note that connection installation times are estimates and can vary due to circuit type, bid status and construction issues. If you have any questions, contact Eric Nicklas (eric@more.net) or call 1-800-509-6673.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

2008 August 3 – 5	Event 47th Annual Cooperative Conference for School Administrators Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach http://dese.mo.gov/commissioner/adminconf/index.html
August 7 – 10	8th International Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT) Conference Minneapolis, MN http://mic08.merlot.org
October 5-7	MOREnet Instructional Technology Conference (MITC) 2008 Tan-Tar-A , Osage Beach, MO http://www.more.net/conferences/mitc/

GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Due Date Ongoing	Grant Program UPS Foundation Education Grants http://www.community.ups.com/philanthropy/grant.html
Ongoing	Build an Outdoor Classroom at Your School http://www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=pg&p=AboutLowes/outdoor/index.html
Ongoing	Adopt a Classroom Grants http://www.adoptaclassroom.com/
Ongoing	The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation's Education Grants Program http://www.hewlett.org/
Ongoing	Educational Foundation of America Grants http://www.efaw.org/
Ongoing	Robert H. Michel Special Project Grants http://www.dirksencenter.org/print_grants_specialprojects.htm
Ongoing	Toshiba America Foundation 7-12 Math and Science Grants http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/about/HowApply.jsp
Ongoing	Motorola Foundation http://www.motorola.com/giving

GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES cont'd.

Ongoing	Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/
Ongoing	The Starbucks Foundation Arts & Literacy Grants http://www.starbucks.com/aboutus/grantinfo.asp
Ongoing	NEA Learning & Leadership Grants http://www.neafoundation.org/grants/NEA-Grants_bro-web.pdf
Ongoing	RGK Foundation Education Grants http://www.rgkfoundation.org/guidelines.php#programs
Ongoing	Kinder Morgan Foundation Education Grants http://www.kindermorgan.com/community/km_foundation.cfm
Ongoing	NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/StudentAchievement_Guidelines.htm
Ongoing	Pay It Forward Mini-Grants for Service-Oriented Projects for Youths http://payitforwardfoundation.org/educators/grant.html
Ongoing	ING Foundation Educational Grants http://www.ing-usa.com/us/aboutING/CorporateCitizenship/index.htm
2008	
August 29	Enterprise Rent-A-Car Grants http://aboutus.enterprise.com/what_we_believe/our_foundation.html
September 5	Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy Grants Program http://www.barbarabushfoundation.com/nga.html
September 15	Ezra Jack Keats Mini-grant Program Proposal http://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/programs/minigrant.html
September 15	Lois Lenski Covey Foundation Grants http://www.loislenskicovey.org/
September 27	Melinda Gray Ardia Environmental Foundation Grants Program http://www.mgaef.org/index.html
September 30	Kids in Need Foundation 2008 Kids In Need Teacher Grants http://www.kidsinneed.net/grants/guidelines.php
October 12	Best Buy Teach Award program https://bestbuyteach.scholarshipamerica.org/
November 14	Classroom-Based Research Grants for Grades K–12 Teachers http://www.nctm.org/resources/content.aspx?id=1330
December 1	PITSCO/HEARLIHY/FTE GRANT: Excellence in Teaching Technology http://www.iteaconnect.org/Awards/granthearlihy.htm

GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES cont'd.**2009**

January 1

Fourier Systems: Matching Grants for Science Tools<http://www.nova1to1.com/science-grant/index.php>

The following are just a few of the many sites that provide information on grant opportunities for K-12 education programs. Please check each listing for specific information on the type of program and the rules and guidelines for participation.

Grant listings

- For an extensive list of grants, check the **Grants Directory from *Technology and Learning*** <http://techlearning.com/resources/grants.jhtml>.
- **Edutopia** has a listing of corporate, nonprofit, and government grant-making institutions, periodicals with grant information, and more. For more information, visit <http://www.edutopia.org/foundation/grant.php>.
- **Public Education Network** posts a listing of Existing Grant Opportunities (updated each week) at http://www.publiceducation.org/newsblast_grants.asp.
- **Grant writing and funding resources** are available at <http://www.libraryspot.com/features/grantsfeature.htm>.
- **The School Funding Center** is a subscription based database for federal, state and foundation grants for schools. Included in the subscription is Dr. Deborah Porter's SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL GRANTS, a step-by-step grant-writing manual by one of the foremost grant writers in the country. [http://www.schoolfundingcenter.info/\(xzvsqo2g4qqxuc55s0mcdmyy\)/index.aspx](http://www.schoolfundingcenter.info/(xzvsqo2g4qqxuc55s0mcdmyy)/index.aspx)
- Sign up for the free **GrantsAlert.com Weekly Recap** for current K-12 Funding and Grants Alerts. For more complete information go to: <http://www.grantsalert.com>.
- This online version of **eSchool News** monthly magazine contains a grants section with regularly updated grant, scholarship, professional development, and other funding opportunities for both educators and students. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/funding>
- An independent nonprofit information clearinghouse on grants available throughout the United States, **The Foundation Center** offers publications, including directories of foundation and corporate grantmakers, research advice, custom research, and database searching. The website includes online training in grantseeking, proposal writing, and funding research as well as an online librarian. <http://www.fdncenter.org>
- The **Grants.gov** site allows organizations to electronically find and apply for competitive grant opportunities from all Federal grant-making agencies, and encompasses over 900 grant programs offered by the 26 Federal grant-making agencies. It streamlines the process of awarding over \$350 billion annually to state and local governments, academia, not-for-profits, and other organizations. <http://grants.gov>
- **Grantsandfunding.com** Offers a complete listing of all Thompson Publishing Group publications that focus on grant and funding issues. Thompson Publishing Group publication subscribers have access to a special section that provides resources such as grant deadlines, highlights of funding issues, and links to related websites. <http://www.grantsandfunding.com>
- **SchoolGrants** is a collection of resources and tips to help K-12 educators apply for and obtain special grants for a variety of projects. The site offers various fundraising ideas, sample proposals, grant writing tips, and scholarship information. <http://www.schoolgrants.org>
- **Electronic Learning**, a pull-out section of, but also distributed separately from Instructor Magazine, focuses on the use of technology in the classroom. The EL website will soon be expanded to include grant information. <http://www.teacher.scholastic.com/products/instructor.htm>
- **MultiMedia Schools**, a print magazine published five times a year, addresses multiple technologies used in K-12 schools today. Selected full-text content is now available online. Includes a NewsWatch section, which posts technology-related funding news and links. <http://www.infotoday.com/MMSchools>

GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES cont'd.**Foundations**

- Corning Foundation http://www.corning.com/inside_corning/foundation.asp
- International Technology Education Association (ITEA) <http://www.iteaconnect.org>
- NEC Foundation of America <http://www.necfoundation.org>
- Sun Microsystems Foundation Open Gateway Grants Program
http://www.sun.com/aboutsun/comm_invest/ogp/index.html
- Toyota USA Foundation
http://www.toyota.com/about/our_commitment/philanthropy/education/toyota_usa/
- Mazda <http://www.mazdafoundation.org/index.html>

Federal Grants

- National Science Foundation (NSF) <http://www.nsf.gov>
- U.S. Department of Education Funding Opportunities <http://www.ed.gov/fund/landing.jhtml>

CONTESTS, AWARDS, AND FUNDRAISERS

- August 31 **The Design Squad Trash to Treasure Competition** challenges students to recycle, reuse, and re-engineer everyday materials into out-of-the-box inventions.
<http://www.bkfk.com/Modules/Competition/Competition.aspx?Section=buildit>
- October 28 **International Reading Association: Teacher Recognition Award**
http://www.reading.org/association/awards/teachers_routman.html
- October 15 **The Magna Awards** is a national recognition program co-sponsored by *American School Board Journal*, the National School Boards Association, and Sodexo School Services that honors school board best practices and innovative programs that advance student learning.
<http://www.asbj.com/MainMenuCategory/Supplements/MagnaAwards/WhatisMagna.aspx>
- December 31 **EcoPhones Recycling Fundraiser**
<http://www.ecophones.com/ProgramRules.aspx>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- 2008**
- August 7 **EVENT**
St. Louis ePeGS Workshop
St. Louis RPDC, 8225 Florissant Road
More information about this ePeGS workshop can be found at <http://dese.mo.gov/epegs/>
- August 12 **Webb City ePeGS Workshop**
SW Center, 528 Ellis St.
More information about this ePeGS workshop can be found at <http://dese.mo.gov/epegs/>
- August 13 **Springfield ePeGS Workshop**
Library Center, 4653 South Campbell
More information about this ePeGS workshop can be found at <http://dese.mo.gov/epegs/>
- August 20 **Kansas City ePeGS Workshop**
KC RPDC, Union Station, 30 West Pershing Rd.
More information about this ePeGS workshop can be found at <http://dese.mo.gov/epegs/>
- August 25 **Articles for Newslines due**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR cont'd.

August 27

Sikeston ePeGS Workshop

SEMO, Sikeston Campus, Hwy. 61 No

More information about this ePeGS workshop can be found at <http://dese.mo.gov/epegs/>**FROM THE MAILBAG**

These CAPspace Collaborations were recently created in the Collaborations Around the Planet website. A collaborative project gives students an opportunity to learn and interact with another school or classroom. Videoconference technology makes it possible to connect to students around the world. Collaborations involve two or more classrooms connecting to each other and sharing information. Two-classroom projects are a great place to start because they are simple to organize and implement. The many possibilities include popular projects such as Read Around the Planet, MysteryQuest, and HistoryMystery. <http://projects.twice.cc/>

Happy Birthday NASA! <http://projects.twice.cc/?l=collaboration&id=58>

Connections: H.323

Grades: 6, 7, 8

Subjects: Mathematics, Physical Education, Science (Life), Science (Physical), Science (Earth), Social Studies/History, World Language

Dates: October 1 from 7:00-6:00 EDT

Description: The United States Distance Learning Association, Polycom, and the Discovery Channel have joined forces with NASA to put on the biggest birthday bash of the year! NASA will be celebrating its 50th birthday on October 1st. To celebrate this momentous occasion, we will be connecting each hour (for 10 sections) to one of NASA's Distance Learning Network sites.

Each section will have the following collaboration: DLN coordinator, NASA engineer or scientist, a U.S. school, an international school, and Discovery. One of the new Discovery Channel documentary videos will be shared followed by a live interactive lesson with a NASA scientist or engineer.

Either at the beginning or end (not yet determined) the two interactive schools will have 5 minutes to present happy birthday wishes indicative of their culture, to NASA. If selected, your school would only participate interactively for one of the sections. The entire event (all 10 hours or more) will be streamed for viewing. **Contact** Marci Powell at marci.powell@polycom.com for more information.

Lives of Teenagers in Spanish (level 1) <http://projects.twice.cc/?l=collaboration&id=56>

Connections: H.323

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Subjects: World Language

Dates: between September and December 2008. EST time zone, detailed times TBD in August.

Description: This teacher would like to find other Spanish 1 teachers at the high school level to connect via IVC and by a blog, ning or wiki. I am open to collaboration with ESL teachers with a lot of native Spanish speakers in their groups. The topics would revolve around lives of teenagers (in the target language).

eLECTIONS is an online learning experience that demonstrates how broadband technology - with its capacity to deliver video, audio, excellent inter-activity, design and content - can support active, meaningful and memorable learning.

Cable in the Classroom <http://www.ciconline.org/elections> (CIC) created this free 3-Dimensional multimedia game in partnership with **CNN Student News**, **C-SPAN** and **History™**. **eLECTIONS** is the second in a series of broadband demonstrations showing the learning power of high-speed internet. The first demonstration, Webby Award-nominated "Shakespeare: Subject to Change" was released in 2003.

eLECTIONS was first released in 2004 and has been updated in 2008 for the election cycle. Now infused with a voice-over host character - using the image of George Washington - and more video and *LEARN MORE* options, the game

FROM THE MAILBAG cont'd.

offers expanded learning opportunities. Additionally, CIC has expanded the teacher section of the game with learning guides, a matching to state social studies standards, helpful links, and a preview area of the videos included in the game so that lesson plans can be generated.

Inspired by the classic board game "The Game of Life," players role-play their own virtual candidates running for President. The one or two-player game is entertaining and educational - with emphasis on delivering a fun learning experience. Kids can play with parents, students with teachers, users of all ages with a friend, classmate, or with a computer-generated opponent. The latest edition of **eLECTIONS** also offers a computer-generated Third Party candidate. <http://www.ciconline.org/elections>

Curriki Redesign Look for a new home page and an easier site organization based on three main uses of Curriki: Find, Contribute, and Connect. <http://www.curriki.org>

- It's now possible to create wiki resources using a very simple form. To see some examples of lessons created using this new template, click this link. Then start to contribute your own!
http://www.curriki.org/xwiki/bin/view/Coll_curriki/ModelLessonsfromCurrikisForm-BasedTemplate
- **Sesame Workshop Teams up with Curriki** Panwapa is a popular new Muppet-based world that comes from the people behind Sesame Street. Curriki presents Panwapa videos and curriculum designed to help children Grades K-2 become global citizens – an engaging and informative project for summer or the school year. Learn more and meet some Muppets by visiting:
<http://www.curriki.org/xwiki/bin/view/MyCurriki/Collections?user=XWiki.Panwapa>
- **Putting The Diary of Anne Frank in Context** This easy-to-follow constructivist lesson and WebQuest guides students through an online tour of New York's Museum of Jewish Heritage, examining artifacts of Jewish life, culture, and history. Students will think and write about how these artifacts connect to what they already know and what they will be learning about the Holocaust and Jewish life while reading the Diary of Anne Frank.
http://www.curriki.org/xwiki/bin/view/Coll_paxetaurora/AnneFrank
- **Featured Group: Wyoming Shares Spanish Curriculum** This group has developed a curriculum for middle-school students who began their study of Spanish in early elementary school. The group is sharing its Grade 6 curriculum as a service to the profession and as a method of gaining input into the continued evaluation and updating of its resources. Check back soon for Grades 7 and 8!
http://www.curriki.org/xwiki/bin/view/Group_Wyoming6-8Spanish/
- To browse other groups which have formed on Curriki: <http://www.curriki.org/xwiki/bin/view/Groups/Browse>
- Let Curriki know about special projects: putting together a curriculum and want input? Need members for a new group? Have content to contribute to Curriki? Let Curriki know by email to projects@curriki.org.

Megaconference and Megaconference Jr. scheduled Each year, the Megaconference occurs with the goal of connecting people in order to further the use of videoconferencing in education and research and to advance the state of the art in videoconferencing technology. Speakers from across the globe share their latest real-world uses of H.323 videoconferencing and other compatible systems, while using these videoconferencing systems to do so. The audience consists of:

- Active participants who have access to advanced Internet connectivity and an H.323 or other compatible videoconferencing endpoint, and
- Observers who watch the simultaneous stream using a web browser and freely available stream players.

The Tenth Anniversary Megaconference will be held on Nov. 6, 2008, all day, everywhere. Because this is the 10th Megaconference, some very special things will happen then that have not occurred in previous Megaconferences. The Megaconference is the largest video conference in the world, with many hundreds of participants from all over the world.

Presentations may be on any topic of general interest, but those which demonstrate new or novel applications of video conferencing technology, or promote world togetherness and understanding are especially encouraged. Interactive presentations are normally about 15 minutes long. Past presentations are abstracted at <http://www.digitalunion.osu.edu/megaconference/megaconference9/abstract.html#iportal>

Presentations should include interesting video materials, preferably live, and not just talking heads. To present or view

FROM THE MAILBAG cont'd.

Megaconference sessions, sites must have access to H.323 or compatible video conferencing equipment, and sufficient bandwidth to provide good quality video. Internet2 connections are not required. There is no cost to participate. For more information about Megaconference IX, visit <http://digitalunion.osu.edu/megaconference/>.

Megaconference Jr., now in its fifth year, is a project designed to give students in elementary and secondary schools around the world the opportunity to communicate, collaborate and contribute to each other's learning in real time, using advanced multi-point video conferencing technology. Presenters design and conduct videoconference-based presentations and activities focused on both academic and cultural issues. Participants are able to address questions to presenters and to collaborate with geographically diverse peers in collaborative learning activities, thus building international cultural awareness. <http://www.megaconferencejr.org/>

Ed Department Releases Evaluation Guide for Online Learning

The U.S. Department of Education has released its first guide to evaluating K-12 online-learning programs. The report comes at a time when online education is growing rapidly, notes Education Week, and school districts have been turning increasingly to online courses to fill a range of instructional and support needs. But methods for evaluating online education have failed to keep up with its swift growth, varying application, and complexity. The 68-page guide, "Evaluating Online Learning: Challenges and Strategies for Success," draws lessons from seven recent evaluations of online programs and instructional resources. It was prepared by WestEd Inc., based in San Francisco. See the report at <http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/academic/evalonline/evalonline.pdf>.

From Tech and Learning <http://www.techlearning.com/>

Digital Photography Contest *Tech & Learning* invites K-12 students to participate in the sixth annual digital photography contest. The competition, open to all K-12 students, challenges students to capture—and share—their unique vision of the world. The best digitally enhanced photo wins a special prize from Adobe. Other prizes include a digital camera, Adobe Photoshop Elements, and more! <http://www.techlearning.com/portraits/>

Web 2.0: from Curious to Competent Web 2.0 tools play an increasingly important role in everyday life. Not only are people more connected, but they have more opportunities to find information, share ideas and be creative than ever before. Most educators who use some of the new, free, online tools to accomplish tasks find rich rewards. Yet many others are curious about how the tools work, and even more, what exactly they can do with them in the classroom to help their students learn. This eBook, sponsored by Atomic Learning is designed to explore the reasons for using the most popular Web 2.0 tools and act as a guide to explore the read/write Web. Register to view this eBook at <http://newbay.ebookhost.net/tl/atomic/2/>.

Technology in Motion Program opens up to Middle Schoolers by Dave Nagel *Sony Creative Software*, <http://www.sonycreativesoftware.com/> developer of the *Vegas Video Production Suite*, has opened registration for its **Technology in Motion 2** <http://www.techinmotioncontest.com/> video contest for students. The competition, the second one this year, has expanded eligibility to include both high school and middle school students and increased total prizes to more than \$400,000.

The **Technology in Motion 2** competition will award 28 total prize packages to entrants, including 25 fourth-place prizes of \$10,000 in hardware and software, one third-place prize of \$30,000, a second place prize of \$40,000, and a grand prize of \$50,000. Prize packages include notebooks, cameras, camera equipment (tripods, cases), and various software packages.

Sony is also providing schools with a free "Technology In Motion launch kit" to help get students started on their projects. The kit includes free copies of Sony Vegas Pro; Cinescore soundtrack creation software, which includes royalty-free audio clips; video tutorials; and an electronic version of Sony's curriculum guide for digital video and audio production.

Online registrations must be received by October 15. Contest submissions (i.e., the actual videos) must be received by April 1, 2009. Forms, rules, entry requirements, and other information about the contest can be found

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at <http://www.techinmotioncontest.com/>.

Spotlight: Free Social Media Tools for Educators by Dave Nagel While most districts are still tackling Web-based collaboration tools from pedagogical and security perspectives, a large number of teachers are already out there using these tools to supplement instruction, engage learners, and encourage their students to become producers of information, as well as consumers of it. In other words, they're experimenting. And here are some of the free tools they're using to do it.

While the breadth of social media tools for education is fairly staggering, we narrow down the categories to three here, focusing on those in which there are clear leaders in technologies and the value they provide to educators. (All of the tools discussed here are free, so value refers to volume of features, quality of implementation, and relevance to learning.)

- **Digital Media Sharing** There's no shortage of media sharing sites out there that allow individuals to post and view content of all kinds. But for schools, general media sharing sites like YouTube pose some obvious problems. Teachers and administrators certainly don't want to walk in on their students viewing the latest twist on Faces of Death, to catch them watching adult content, or to get tangled up with potential copyright issues. Two fairly prominent media sharing sites address these issues by ensuring that their content is education-focused.
- **TeacherTube** takes an approach that's fairly similar to YouTube but provides a mechanism for users to flag videos as inappropriate for education, and registered users are supposed to acknowledge that they are educators. It allows teachers to upload videos from their students (or from themselves) and to view those submitted by others. It also includes a range of other social media functionality, including blogs, viewer comments, and a rating system for videos. Media can be viewed by "channel" (i.e., elementary, middle school, high school, academic subject, athletics, etc.) and searched by tags (algebra, chemistry, etc.).
- **SchoolTube** <http://www.schooltube.com/> takes a somewhat different approach through a pre-approval process, which it describes as "moderated [I]nternet media content sharing for teachers and students." Only registered teachers can approve videos to be posted, and all content adheres to local school policies and SchoolTube's code of ethics. In addition to student- and teacher-generated videos, it also includes lesson plans, links to resources, and activities.

Learning Communities Online learning communities combine a wide range of content. In some ways, TeacherTube and SchoolTube can be considered online learning communities themselves. But here we're referring to sites that take a broader approach and focus not so much on digital media as on education tools in general--including assessments, learning/course management, textual materials, and other resources. In other words, complete online learning solutions.

- **Edu2.0** <http://www.edu20.org/> is a spectacular example of a learning community done right in terms of the technological sophistication and depth and breadth of resources available. It offers a complete Web-based learning management system for public and private teaching, more than 10,000 shared online resources, and a range of networking and collaboration features--wikis, blogs, feeds, chat, etc. And it also includes assessments, attendance logs, grading, assignments, and many other features found in traditional learning management systems but without the cost of commercial systems and without the hassle of implementing an LMS from scratch. There is no cost for Edu2.0, and there is no advertising on the site. And, unlike many social sites out there, Edu2.0 is easy on the eyes and on the brain.

Edu2.0 is really the standout in broad-based learning communities. However, there are several others also worth mentioning. (Some fairly well known sites are left off this list, as they cater mostly to tertiary education.)

- **Ecto** <http://www.ectolearning.com/ecto2/Default.aspx> is less focused on the learning management aspect and more on providing resources and a mechanism for sharing learning tools. Ecto describes itself as a "hosted, open networked personal learning environment." For teachers, it provides tools for organizing coursework and materials, facilitating exams, assigning work, and promoting collaboration among students. It also includes

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blogs and various Web 2.0 technologies, as well as hooks into outside resources.

- **ProProfs** <http://www.proprofs.com/> provides wikis, blogs, tutorials and a comprehensive suite of tools for generating content, including flash cards and quizzes. Its "Quiz School" feature is designed to let educators create online quizzes and practice tests for their students and provides a library of pre-designed quizzes, which range from K-12 education to technology certification, SAT and GRE prep, and general trivia.
- **ChitChat's Educational Network** <http://chitch.at/> provides free online hosting for class Web pages and multimedia content and allows educators to share materials with one another. It also includes free online space, tools for adding course materials and assignments, and grading capabilities, along with the ability to mail grades to students on an assignment by assignment basis. It also includes blogs and tutorial videos.
- **WeBWork** https://webwork.maa.org/wiki/Main_Page is an open-source and free Internet-based system designed for math and science homework generation and dissemination. Funded in part by the National Science Foundation and supported by the American Institute of Mathematics, the software was developed originally at the University of Rochester by two mathematics professors. Its original scope covered only mathematics, but it's since been expanded (and continues to be expanded) to cover other subject areas as well, including physics, econ, chemistry, and others. It's now used in more than 100 institutions, ranging universities and high schools, and is also being deployed in some middle schools.
- **Wikis Wikispaces** <http://www.wikispaces.com/site/for/teachers100K> offers free services <http://www.wikispaces.com/site/for/teachers100K> for teachers who want to host classroom wikis, including the ability to create private wikis viewable and editable only by members of the teacher's group. (This feature normally costs \$5 per month.) Wikispaces is looking to give away 100,000 such education-oriented wikis for K-12 users.
- **PBwiki** <http://pbwiki.com/education.wiki> is another free wiki space site that takes the needs of K-12 educators into consideration--including privacy settings, but also with case studies and white papers covering the use of collaborative tools in education. As the site says, you use PBwiki when you're "tired of waiting for Brad in IT to help set you up."
- **Wikibooks** http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Main_Page is a collection of educational textbooks freely available for use (including printing). Textbooks are available in a wide range of subjects, from arithmetic to calculus, psychology to linguistics, introductory chemistry to astrophysics. It also includes various professional development resources, study aids, and a special **Wikijunior** <http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Wikijunior> section for finding books aimed at younger learners.
- And then there's the granddaddy of all wikis: **Wikipedia** http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page Yes, I know nobody has ever not heard of Wikipedia. But I'm listing it here because I think it needs some defense in light of well intentioned teachers and university professors banning its use. Let me put it bluntly: Wikipedia is not your enemy. The enemy is laziness--the same laziness that, in the olden days, resulted in students regurgitating passages out of family encyclopedias or dictionaries or school textbooks. Wikipedia, like every other source, does afford students the opportunity to take the lazy approach. But unlike most other sources, Wikipedia facilitates exploration. It's expansive rather than reductionist. A topic doesn't sit there pat; it's the basis for further exploration. You can begin at hypergiants, detour over to strings, and continue on to Bose-Einstein condensates in a few clicks. You can read up on some aspects of Frederick Douglass's life, then go off to read his works or click over to more information on abolitionist movements. It provides pathways for learning really unlike anything else up to the time of its creation.

Afraid some of the articles in Wikipedia aren't rigorously reviewed and edited? Some aren't. Some are far more rigorous than any K-12 textbooks you'll encounter in your lifetime. (It would be quite an eye opener for many educators if they ever had dealings with a book editor or two or took part in an "expert" review process.)

Wikipedia is one of the most useful repositories of human knowledge ever conceived, let alone implemented,

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and it's expanding all the time. It can be abused, yes, and viewed with an uncritical eye by trusting students. But those problems are corrected easily enough (maybe, for example, by not assigning homework that begs for lazy answers).

Introducing New *Generation Cures* Website Teaches Kids that Caring leads to Curing *Generation Cures* is an inspiring new online family resource - featuring completely original online games and animated webisodes, produced by FableVision and MIT Education Arcade for Children's Hospital Boston. *Generation Cures* is an online movement for tweens (ages 8-12) and their parents founded by Children's Hospital Boston. The website was created to help kids learn about the power of compassion and giving through online game play and animated storytelling. While other popular tween websites like Club Penguin and WebKinz charge families a monthly subscription fee, all of the rich content on *Generation Cures* is free! As kids watch stories and play games at *Generation Cures*, they will begin to look outside their own lives and get excited about helping others, while also learning a lot about science and the world of medical research.

What makes *Generation Cures* Special? Of course, *Generation Cures* provides a free, safe, and secure environment for children. But what really makes the site unique is its inspiring message and the quality of the content. On the website, kids can explore:

- **Zebrafish:** A series of animated online episodes that tell the story of a quirky group of kids who join a band, which they name Zebrafish. While each child joins for personal reasons, when one of the band members falls ill, the kids are united by a common goal. By combining their talents, the kids begin to see how they can affect change in their community and in the lives of others. As children watch each webisode, they too will learn about the power they have to help others and, we hope, be inspired to take action to help kids like them. <http://kids.generationcures.org/watch>
- **Caduceus:** Transported to the mythical land of Alterica, children play a series of online puzzle-adventure games in their quest to find a cure for a deadly virus that is devastating the land. Assuming the role of healers in this fantasy world, players have a chance to explore what it's like to be both a research scientist and a doctor. As they do, they will gain insight into the impact that research, collaboration and altruism can have in today's world. At the same time, Caduceus will foster other 21st century skills - including logic, reason and creativity. <http://kids.generationcures.org/play>
- **Kid Videos:** Through the "Behind the Scenes" videos, *Generation Cures* allows tween viewers to enter the worlds of other kids who have been successfully treated at Children's Hospital Boston. Directed and produced by kids, these videos give a real face to childhood diseases and the patients who overcome them. <http://kids.generationcures.org/kid-vids>

Why is *Generation Cures* needed? Children's Hospital Boston is a leader in research and pediatric care across the US and around the globe. Its doctors and scientists work every day to find cures for the most devastating childhood illnesses. Their research is vital, yet unfortunately, pediatric research in the U.S. is severely underfunded. New strategies are needed to help support the hospital's world-changing work. ***Generation Cures*** is an innovative program to help increase funding for these lifesaving research efforts.

How are funds raised through the website? Families can join *Generation Cures* for **FREE**. We think kids will love the content. We hope, too, that parents will appreciate the positive impact it has on kids, and will discuss the social messages embodied in our games and stories. In turn, we hope that parents, relatives, friends, and corporations will support Children's Hospital Boston's efforts to find cures for sick kids around the world by making financial gifts to *Generation Cures*.

What can you do to help? Visit us at www.generationcures.org today. Check out our first four Zebrafish webisodes, Chapters 1 and 2 of the Caduceus game and our first-run videos, which were just launched this week. Additional webisodes and games will be rolled out over the coming months, leading up to the site's national roll out in 2009. *FYI: The site is still in beta testing, and we welcome your feedback! Now's the time to help us make it better!*

FROM THE MAILBAG cont'd.

iTunes U review by Joe Huber Educators could create an entire online course with the materials available at iTunes U, http://www.apple.com/education/itunesu_mobilelearning/itunesu.html a collection of audio and video tracks that covers a variety of subjects for the K-16 curriculum. Most of the tracks are free.

- *Pros:* The tracks contain excellent curriculum material, and the price is certainly right for K-12 schools. The content of the tracks is good for both student remediation and acceleration. If your school uses, Moodle, SchoolWires, SchoolFusion, Angel, Blackboard, etc., iTunes U can easily be incorporated into these products.
- *Cons:* The downloads were slow even on my high speed connection (6 mbs dedicated). In some cases, it took up to 45 minutes to download an audio track. Schools can fix this by installing a dedicated server, but they would need an experienced IT person to set this up. There is also no state-by-state curriculum guide for the content/tracks or even a national subject area guide.
- *Overall Impression:* This product is excellent for the K-12 classroom, especially for remediation and when combined with a content management product. For example, one particular track gives specifics on how to do 2-digit into 3-digit long division, which would be excellent for the educator to post on the day this was taught in class. I would suggest teachers download the content to their sites or that the school install its own server to make the most of the content. Since most of the tracks are free and are of good curriculum content, iTunes U is an excellent value.

From YouthLearn <http://www.youthlearn.org> YouthLearn is a project of the nonprofit .Education Development Center, Inc. <http://main.edc.org/>, designed for youth development professionals, teachers, educators, and other caring adults. YouthLearn provides resources and tools for developing effective learning programs enhanced with technology, particularly in out-of-school settings.

Model Projects: Maker Faire Inspires Learning and Creativity At an event called Maker Faire Education Day, "the first of its kind, two dozen inventors shared their ideas and creations -- from electronic gadgets to homemade instruments -- and discussed the scientific principles that make their work possible. Dale Dougherty, founder of Maker Faire -- the larger, weekend-long public event on which the Maker Faire Education Day is based -- says traditional vocational-arts courses are disappearing from school curricula, but many professions still require hands-on skills. This event is one way to keep interest in manual efforts alive." Visit <http://www.edutopia.org/maker-faire-DIY-projects> to learn more about it.

Windward: Outsmart the Weather - Free Online Game where players learn how to read weather maps and identify and predict weather patterns. It is one of the resources highlighted in the recently launched Technology Curriculum Database, developed by YouthLearn for the U.S. Department of Education-funded National Partnership for Quality Afterschool Learning at SEDL. In this game, players must negotiate the wind and weather and determine what tools and resources to use as they sail a boat in a virtual round-the-world race. Created by Cable in the Classroom with project partners Discovery Education and The Weather Channel, and in cooperation with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Windward brings broadband technology and interactive digital content together in a way that enriches the teaching and learning of science concepts related to weather. Extensive teacher and parent sections offer ideas and link to numerous resources for using Windward in or out of school. <http://www.sedl.org/cgi-bin/mysql/afterschool/technology.cgi?resource=3>

The Fairfax Network will continue offering their Passport series free of charge for the 2008-2009 school year. Below is a partial listing of the Fairfax Network's Passport 2009 program schedule. Put these videoconference dates on your upcoming school calendar, and/or share them with teachers in the individual curricular areas. Online registration opens after August 1 at <http://www.fcps.edu/fairfaxnetwork>.

- 9/24/2008 — Meet the Author: Nathaniel Philbrick
- 10/8/2008 — Flight School: From Above
- 10/23/2008 — Shaping the Presidency
- 11/13/2008 — Meet the Author: Thomas Holtz
- 12/3/2008 — Primary Sources: The Library of Congress; Adventure of the American Mind (encore broadcast)
- 12/9/2008 — STEM Rocks!—Part 1

FROM THE MAILBAG cont'd.

- 1/14/2009 — Meet the Author: Moira Rose Donohue
- 2/11/2009 — STEM Rocks!—Part 2
- 2/26/2009 — Meet the Author: William Boniface
- 3/4/2009 — I Heard That! Listening to Classical Music (encore broadcast)
- 3/19/2009 — Meet the Author: Rob Cleveland
- 3/31/2009 — Native American Policies
- 4/15/2009 — Meet the Author: Susan Stockdale
- 4/21/2009 — STEM Rocks!—Part 3

Additional programs will be added to the schedule as they are confirmed and dates are set. Visit <http://www.fcps.edu/fairfaxnetwork/home/index.shtml> for a detailed program brochure.

Vicki A. Davis, a prolific educational blogger, recently listed her “favorite things” on her blog, <http://coolcatteacher.blogspot.com>. Below is the list and her comments. Visit it regularly to see what new and exciting things she has found!

- **Songbird** <http://www.songbirdnest.com/> Open source alternative to iTunes <http://www.apple.com/itunes/>, connected with **Skreemr** <http://skreemr.com/>, the music search engine.
- **Timebridge** <http://www.timebridge.com/home.php> A scheduling system that plugs into **Google Calendar** <http://www.google.com/calendar> or Outlook. This system will invite people to a meeting, select four time alternatives, book the meeting time that everyone can attend, put it on your calendar, and remind them.
- **Diigo** <http://www.diigo.com/> A tool to transform your bookmarking, blogging, sharing, and twittering. Can be set to send to your **delicious** <http://del.icio.us/> account. Join the educators group <http://groups.diigo.com/groups/educators> and ad4dcss groups <http://groups.diigo.com/groups/Ad4dcss>. Use it to set up a nice little daily autoblog based upon a specified tag. Best used with **Firefox** <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/> to install the bookmarklets <https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/2792> This is a definite tool for those writing papers.
- **Zoho Notebook** <https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/2792> This notebooking service has the ability to EMBED video and web pages as well as snag notes from many places. (Check out some of the pages <http://notebook.zoho.com/nb/public/coolcatteacher/book/472020000000233> Vicki demoed in a workshop a while back.)
- **Google Forms** <http://spreadsheets.google.com/> **Google spreadsheets** have a tool hidden in the Share tab, the ability to create a form <http://googledocs.blogspot.com/>. **Horizon Project** managers <http://horizonproject2008.wikispaces.com/> used this to submit their weekly reports. Fast and easy and a great way to pull information into a spreadsheet.
- **Firefox** <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/> Try Firefox, and it's plug-ins. Vicki's favorites are the **Diigo** plug in <https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/2792> and the **Technorati tag plug** in <https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/1384>.
- **Twitter** <http://www.twitter.com/> To try out Twitter, sign up, add <http://www.twitter.com/coolcatteacher/> as a friend. Go in and see who is talking to Vicki, add some who sound interesting and then reply to their messages by responding “@theirID” (so to reply to Vicki, type @coolcatteacher). Find yourself conversing daily with some of your heroes.
- **Hulu.com** <http://www.hulu.com/> lets the user watch all kinds of TV shows.
- **Mogulus** <http://www.mogulus.com/> Program your own 24/7 TV station here. Schedule things to play. Merge videos from other places on the Net. Very cool.
- **AFI Screen Nation** <http://screenation.afi.com/> The American Film Institute's site allows students to upload video and be evaluated by REAL producers, actors, and directors in Hollywood. The curriculum is totally amazing and I (Vicki) use the videos that come with United Streaming <http://www.unitedstreaming.com/> to teach digital film & movie making. Vicki loves the AFI digital storytelling curriculum and highly recommends it.
- **Toondoo** <http://www.toondoo.com/> Make cartoons. This continues to be one of Vicki's perennial favorites for cartoons.

FROM THE MAILBAG cont'd.

- **Ning** <http://www.ning.com/> (for VIDEO sharing) A new Ning feature – Ning will automatically convert uploaded video to the most compressed, appropriate version for the web. Then embed the video anywhere else. This is solving a lot of access problems for the **Horizon project** <http://horizonproject2008.ning.com/> when schools just unblock Ning and have access to all of the movies!
- **Intel Mashmaker** <http://mashmaker.intel.com/web/> lets you mash together all different types of websites, a lot like Microsoft **PopFly** <http://www.popfly.com/>
- **Skype** <http://www.skype.com/> Vicki recommends you take a look, and suggests this is another MUST have APP.
- **Classtools.net** <http://www.classtools.net/> Offers embeddable graphic organizers of every kind for your wiki or blog. Vicki uses it all the time in her classroom.
- **Wikispaces** <http://www.wikispaces.com/> Take a look at Vicki's **Horizon project wiki** <http://horizonproject2008.wikispaces.com/>
- **Gmail** <http://mail.google.com/mail> Vicki says, "With the most robust spam filter anywhere, the ability to filter like a fiend, make folders, and import all accounts into one place, this account is great."
- **Gcast** <http://www.gcast.com/> Podcasting from your cell phone.
- **FriendFeed** <http://friendfeed.com/> A service that helps you follow a few people.
- **Technorati Watch list** <http://www.technorati.com/> A must use for bloggers watching those responding to their work - follow the things you want to know more about.
- **Photo Bucket** <http://www.photobucket.com/> The place Vicki puts her private photos. "I like **Flickr**, <http://www.flickr.com/> but Photo Bucket has more robust tools for my photos than I've found other places."
- **Big Huge Labs** <http://bighugelabs.com/flickr/> for **Flickr** "This has Motivational Poster makers and just about everything you can imagine for your photos. Make monster posters, make labels, make anything. If you have photos, this is THE place to PLAY!"
- **Feedburner** <http://www.feedburner.com/fb/a/home> is a must use for any serious blogger or school. **Webmaster** <http://coolcatteacher.blogspot.com/2005/12/save-time-webmaster-use-rss-feeds.html>. Burn the feed to feedburner, which enables moving the feed from place to place without losing readers! Use **Feedblitz** <http://www.feedblitz.com/> to email blog posts. Feedburner <http://www.feedburner.com/fb/a/blogs> has other features that serious bloggers will appreciate.
- **Statcounter** <http://www.statcounter.com/> A very reliable, accurate site to track links, traffic, and more.
- **Google Reader** <http://reader.google.com/> Vicki's RSS reader of choice for linear, sequential RSS reading (down the page aggregation), RSS readers can now download Google Gears and read RSS feeds offline.
- **Netvibes** <http://www.netvibes.com/> For single page aggregation, Vicki uses Netvibes as her RSS reader although her home page starts up with **iGoogle** <http://www.igoogle.com/>. The new Ginger version of Netvibes allows you to publish your pages and share with others. Vicki teaches her students this handy RSS reader for their Personal Learning Networks.
- **EdTechTalk** <http://www.edtechtalk.com/> Vicki co-hosts a show here, and listens to many of the other shows for good ideas and inspiration.
- **Creative Commons Searching** <http://creativecommons.org/> "This is THE place to look for images, graphics, and audio. It is a must use for students!"
- **4Info.net** <http://www.4info.net/> Get the weather sports tickers, stock tickers, RSS reminders and more texted to your phone.
- **Newsmap** <http://www.marumushi.com/apps/newsmap/newsmap.cfm> If you have 1 minute to read the news, go here.
- **Classroom 2.0 Live Conversations** <http://www.classroom20wiki.com/live+conversations> "Steve Hargadon hosts these amazing sessions. Simply excellent. Another place to "get pumped" and have some great ideas."
- Vicki uses the **K12 online conference** <http://k12onlineconference.org/> for PD. (She likes Silvia Tolisano's presentation <http://k12onlineconference.org/?p=151>). Consider asking teachers to view at least one of these presentations and "report back" to the group.
- **Cool Cat Teacher Wiki** <http://coolcatteacher.wikispaces.com/> Vicki's presentations, handouts, archives, and STUFF are there.
- **Slideshare** <http://www.slideshare.net/> Very useful slidesharing site.
- **VoiceThread** <http://voicethread.com/#home> If Vicki could pick ONE tool for elementary education, this is it, hands down.

FROM THE MAILBAG cont'd.

Stay Safe <http://www.staysafe.org/> Online security is more important than ever! With identity theft running rampant and online predators and viruses everywhere, it's important everyone be an active participant in keeping themselves and their personal information safe. Learn how to protect yourself and the ones you love at Stay Safe. This website is broken down by age.

- **Teenagers** – This section addresses issues teens will face online and it teaches them how to be a responsible Web surfer. Whether it's dealing with online bullying or downloading music responsibly, there's something here for every teenager. Watch videos made by teenagers who are helping to spread the message about safety.
- **Parents** – Here parents will learn what you can teach their children about being safe online. It also discusses how parents can make it safe for their children to browse the Internet. In addition, it teaches parents how to create a system of security with an antivirus program, a firewall and spyware protection to keep their computer and personal information safe.
- **50+** – This section really focuses on how to keep personal information safe. People over the age of 50 are often targeted by identity thieves.
- **Educators** – Ready to learn about the delicate balance of computer safety versus student access? It's a fantastic thing to be able to let students work on computers at school, but how to keep them safe? Start by teaching online safety and the differences between .com, .org and .net. You can also teach your students about online scams, phishing and viruses.

There's also a section called The Toolbox that teaches how to use the tools at hand to stay safe online. Learn about firewalls, antivirus, parental controls, networking and even external storage devices.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

The Big Green Help <http://www.nick.com/biggreenhelp> Launched by Nickelodeon to empower students concerned about the environment, this website includes simple ways to go green. Find a new tip every day, videos, games that teach green concepts, and much more.

Need Good Tutorials? Whether building a website, taking photographs or trying to get the most out of Photoshop, a good tutorial is always welcome. And that's where Good Tutorials comes into play. Tutorials are provided in 13 categories:

CSS	Java	Photoshop	3ds Max
Flash	JavaScript	PHP	
HTML	Maya	Ruby	
Illustrator	Photography	Ruby on Rails	

Find the 15 Newest Tutorials on the main page. Registered visitors can keep track of the tutorials visited and access the links beneath the articles that lead to Rating, Clicks, Comments, Save, Share and Report areas. <http://www.good-tutorials.com/>

Web 2.0 Project Book This free book contains nearly 60 classroom projects using Web 2.0 tools, arranged according to grade level. Download it at http://www.terry-freedman.org.uk/db/web2/doc_page4.html

NEWEST eTHEMES

Community Projects These websites are about community projects. Here you will find activities designed to enhance or improve a school, neighborhood or community. Examples include recycling programs, environmental cleanup projects, babysitting clubs, and more. There are links to several organizations with resources to help you get started planning, organizing, and sustaining your project. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002336.shtml>

Genetics: Heredity These sites are about the genetics of heredity. Learn what heredity and inheritance are as well as why children are like their parents and sometimes they are not. Includes games, online tests, and animations. There

NEWEST eTHEMES cont'd.

are also links to eThemes Resources on Genetics: Basics, Punnett Squares, Genes and DNA, and Inherited Blood Diseases. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002354.shtml>

Literature: "The Songcatcher" by Sharyn McCrumb These sites are about the novel "The Songcatcher" by Sharyn McCrumb, and include supporting materials about Appalachia, folk music, and the ballad tradition. You can find supplemental historical information, lyrics, and sound recordings. Included is an eThemes Resource on the cyberethics of downloading music. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002231.shtml>

Texas: Geography and Landforms These websites are about the geography and landforms of Texas. There are maps, facts, printouts, photographs, and quizzes. Includes eThemes Resources on Texas State Facts, Symbols, and History. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002352.shtml>

Texas: History Learn about the history of Texas and the people who live in the area. There is information about local legacy, notable people, and historical landmarks and architecture. Includes historical maps, primary documents, timelines, and activity sheets. There are links to eThemes Resources on Texas state facts, state symbols, geography and landforms, and Alamo. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002353.shtml>

Texas: State Symbols Learn about the official state symbols of Texas including the flag, seal, flower, mascot, and other animals. There are printouts, factsheets, pictures, games, and more. Included is an eThemes Resource on Texas state facts. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002351.shtml>

U.S. President: Theodore Roosevelt: Part III These websites are about President Theodor Roosevelt. Included are his foreign policies, the Roosevelt's Corollary, a world tour of the Great White Fleet, and the building of the Panama Canal. Includes links to eBooks, photographs and a video file. There are links to eThemes Resources on the President's personal life, nature preservation, domestic policies, links to other United States presidents, and Nobel Prize laureates. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002341.shtml>

UPDATED eTHEMES

Alamo These sites are about the Alamo and the Mexican-American War. Take a 360-degree virtual tour of the site and view many photos. There are timelines and first-person accounts. Includes information on Sam Houston, Spanish missions, and the Southwest region of the United States. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000555.shtml>

Animals: Life Cycles These sites focus on the stages animals go through as they mature. Learn how insects, fish, amphibians, birds, mammals, and humans develop. See videos of animals when they are developing embryos. Watch a chicken hatch from its egg. There are many diagrams that visually represent the life cycle. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000167.shtml>

Country: Italy These sites introduce the country of Italy. There is information on Italy's history, culture, art, traditions, cuisine, cars, and more. You can listen to a recording of the National Anthem, take a virtual tour of the Sistine Chapel, view an interactive map, or read about the history of pizza. There are several videos that show how to speak basic Italian. Also included is information about what it's like to be a kid in Italy. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000048.shtml>

Folktales: Tall Tales This is a collection of literature sites with online tall tales from America. Includes tall tales and information about Paul Bunyan, Davy Crockett, John Henry, Slue-Foot Sue, and many others. Learn what tall tales are and their common characteristics. There are also eThemes Resources on fables and fairy tales. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000151.shtml>

Geography: Landforms These sites are about different types of landforms found around the world. Includes mountains, canyons, plains, beaches, and bays. There are photographs, drawings, online games, and activities. Includes links to eThemes Resources on rivers, oceans, lakes, erosion, and Missouri landforms. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000923.shtml>

UPDATE eTHEMES cont'd.

Health: Diet and Nutrition These sites are about good nutrition and healthy diets. Learn about the food pyramid and how food is good for the body. Topics include how to read food labels and look for additives. There are also online games and quizzes about nutrition. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000097.shtml>

Holiday: Veterans' Day These sites are about the history of Veterans' Day, which is formerly known as Armistice Day. Includes activities, crafts, and lesson plans for celebration ideas. There are links to eThemes Resources on World War II and Vietnam War. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000507.shtml>

Literature: "Math Curse" by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith These sites have classroom activity ideas for the book "Math Curse." Read what other children have written about their own math curses and try to solve word problems. There are biographies for author Jon Scieszka and illustrator Lane Smith. Includes a link to an eThemes Resource on everyday uses of math. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001207.shtml>

Magic: History Read about the history of magic and how it has evolved through the years. Find out why people used to believe the word abracadabra was important. View photographs of cups and balls that were used to perform an old illusion. There are links to eThemes Resources on famous magicians and magic tricks. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001262.shtml>

Science: Dinosaurs Learn more about the types of dinosaurs that roamed the earth years ago. Find out which dinosaurs were in your area, watch videos about these creatures, and create your own dinosaur artwork. Includes 3D images, games, and quizzes. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on fossils. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000177.shtml>

Science: Ozone These sites are all about the ozone, a form of oxygen. Sites include information about what ozone is, the ozone layer, why it is important, ozone depletion, and UV protection. Includes images, graphs, animations, interactive applets, games, and video. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000426.shtml>

Science: Rocks and Minerals These sites describe various rocks and minerals. Learn about igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks and some of the more common minerals. Includes hands-on activities, games, photographs, and two animated movies. There are links to eThemes Resources on fossils and erosion. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000504.shtml>

Simple Machines: Advanced These sites include interactive models of machines such as levers and pulley systems. Explains basic concepts of physics such as mechanics, gravity, effort, resistance, work, torque, friction, and motion. Includes lesson plans, laboratory exercises, and experiments. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on simple machines for beginners. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000053.shtml>

Simple Machines: Beginner These resources explore the basics of simple machines: pulleys, wheel and axle, inclined planes, wedges, screws, and levers. Includes animations, online quizzes, hands on activities, experiments, lesson plans, and a word puzzle. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on Advanced Simple Machines. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000102.shtml>

U.S. President: Theodore Roosevelt: Part I Learn about the 26th American President - Theodore Roosevelt. Find out about his personal life - childhood, hobbies, and family. Read about his outdoor adventures, his nature conservations policies, and national parks. Read the story of a teddy bear. Includes audio and video clips, timelines, photographs, quizzes, and biographies. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001740.shtml>

U.S. President: Theodore Roosevelt: Part II Theodore Roosevelt was the 26th president and served from 1901 until 1909. Find out about his political views and domestic policies. Learn about the Bull Moose Party and the presidential election campaign of 1912. Includes the presidential inauguration transcript, photographs, audio and video files. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001978.shtml>