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From Fortmando

Tech Skills Check-In

We are approaching the end of the first semester when all teachers will be writing comments. I encourage you to include any use of technology with your classes in your generic comments. It is relevant to include the acquisition of technology skills in your assessments. Remember that all the skills the parents were accustomed to having their children learn in computer class have been passed on to the core and LAE classes. I know it is happening, so please inform the parents.

It is also a good time to plan activities and projects that will assure the teaching of the tech skills required for your grade level that have not yet been covered. You have a detailed list from me, but briefly - The 6th grade must know word processing with WORD, have an introduction to POWERPOINT and know searching skills for use on the Internet. The 7th grade must become proficient with POWERPOINT, and become familiar with EXCEL and INSPIRATION. The 8th grade should be introduced to i-MOVIE and continue to use POWERPOINT and EXCEL. All grades need to use Noodlebib for citation of sources. Team leads please check in with your teams to assess your progress and plan for the second semester.

DC Electronic Scrapbooks

Chaperoning the eighth grade trip to DC was awesome! Repeatedly, the students were complimented on their behavior, their thoughtful questions and their preparedness. I am so grateful to the other chaperones who made the trip a total pleasure. What wonderful colleagues you are! Special thanks to Rosetta for all her prep work and organization with World Strides.

Upon their return the students were given the option to do an electronic scrapbook. This year two of the students, Reiley Siebel and Elliott Star, chose to use i-Movie to create their scrapbooks. In the future I hope that more students will opt to use technology to create scrapbooks. There is a 17 minute video that you might enjoy viewing. This was created from pictures taken by Erik, Erin, Casey Rose and Chris Finocchio. If you are interested in seeing it, let me know. The electronic scrapbooks and video were created with i-Movie software.

It was good to see the lab was used in my absence. Even the drama sub was in to have the students write scripts. I hope that means you feel welcome and comfortable in the computer lab without me luring you in. Thank you for signing in on the schedule and for keeping the lab in such good order.

Our Heroine

Thank you, Sandi! Due to Sandi's relentless persistence, all AUPs have been signed and returned! Thanks to all for all the reminders.

Digital Video

To clarify some of the many terms associated with the use of digital media, check out these acronyms:

DV — digital video

DVD — digital video disks — \$8 used with a
.....DV recorder, (\$99)

DVC - digital video cassette for DV camera
.....\$8

DSP — digital source performance -VHS
.....formatted tape for better recording
.....from a digital video camera through a
.....VCR- \$4

I have included approximate prices so you can plan costs when using digital equipment. I try to keep a few disks and tapes on hand, but when planning a digital project, it is best for you to make your purchases and charge your team/subject budget. Or if you prefer, give me some lead time and I will be happy to go shopping for you.



MS≠MSA



At the upcoming January 9th MS≠MSA meeting, Erik, Mima, and MaryEllen will present their tech professional development experiences. Erik has moved from beginner to advanced in the use of digital media including i-Movie software. MEL has become an expert using the drawing tools of WORD. Mima is confident in POWERPOINT, and learning i-Movie as her 8th grade class will have videopals in Japan the second semester. Her eighth grade students created POWERPOINT presentations for Japanese class and are currently working on a cookbook project involving digital images. You have all come a long way since September. Be proud of your progress!

Saving to Jupiter Server

Recently, the 8th graders had difficulty saving their DC reflections to the Jupiter server. The helpdesk is working on a reason and a solution for the problem. In the meantime, should the students have difficulty saving directly to their folder on the Jupiter server, have them first save as to the desktop. When they are finished, they can drag their file from the desktop to their folder on the server.



INSPIRATION Workshop

INSPIRATION is one of my most favorite educational software packages. It is designed to help students with the writing process. It offers a visual presentation of their ideas as well as an outline. If you have never seen INSPIRATION and/or would like to learn more about it, I am offering a one hour workshop on January 13th from 3:30-4:30. If there is interest, we can also schedule a session in February.

Data Ports Active

Data ports in all classrooms should now be active. That means you can borrow your team's LCD projector and show student projects, lessons, or use the Internet with the class so that all can see. Try it, you'll like it!

LA Times Finds Me

I enjoy sharing stories of how the Internet serves as a venue to share with the rest of the world. There are people out there looking for information that you post to the web.

While teaching computer classes at Menlo the past three years, I used the web (sunmenlo server) to post my assignments and instructions for the use of specific software and assessment rubrics for my students.

A reporter for the LA Times was researching information from teachers on the use of multi-media software, specifically, i-Movie with their classes. She came across some assignments I had on the sunmenlo server and gave me a call. She had some general questions about how I use i-movie and asked for permission to use my ideas in her article. It should be printed soon, and I will be happy to share it with you, once I get a copy.

Moral of the story: If you post it, they will come! I find the Internet provides an incredible opportunity to share meaningful classroom activities. We owe it to other educators to not only take from the net, but to contribute as well. Want to learn how to make a web page, let me know!

My School Online

When teaching the Intro to Algebra math class, I was always looking for alternative assessment methods. I found a site, QUIZ which has since become a pay for online service. It is definitely worth looking into. For a minimal price, you can create your own assessment tools on line. The students take the quizzes/exams on line and the results are sent to you almost immediately. I also used this site to post student generated quizzes. My math students loved coming to class and taking a quiz on line. It was an alternative way to present assessment - some might call a gimmick. Interested? Check it out www.quizlab.com