

Expecting more, Achieving more

FREE STUFF*

OpenOffice (www.openoffice.org) This is a productivity work-horse for everything from document creation to spreadsheets, presentation slides and databases. Documents created in other programs, such as PowerPoint, can be opened, edited, and saved in a variety of formats including PDF.

Audacity (audacity.sourceforge.net) This cross-platform allows the easy recording and editing of anything from a single tract narration, to multitrack compositions using several sound files edited into a single production.

Cmap (cmap.ihmc.us) This Inspiration-like program lets student collaborate in building expert maps on a global basis through the Internet. It does things no other product on the market does today, and for free.

GIMP (www.gimp.org) This counterpart to Photoshop does a fine job in editing digital photographs and other artwork, and files can be saved in most popular graphics formats.

Inkscape (www.inkscape.org) Line art of amazing complexity can be crafted with this professional tool. Text can be wrapped around objects, and wonderful artwork can be built using this full-featured counterpart to Illustrator.

NVU (www.nvu.com) The crafting of Web sites has increased in complexity in the past few years with the rise of XML. If Dreamweaver is too expensive for all of your computers, NVU can do the job. It even helps maintain sites after they are posted.

From *T.H.E. Journal*, October 2007, the following tools can help advance math and science skills.

Wolfram Demonstrations Project (www.demonstrations.wolfram.com) is a collection of more than 1,300 free demonstrations in math, science and other areas.

WebLessons (www.weblessons.com) provides instructions, study questions, vocabulary, quizzes, and inquiry-based projects, all centered around online resources such as museums, government institutions, and universities.

Straight Curve mathematics (www.plato.com) is a K-6 supplemental classroom software aligned to NCTM standards. It focuses instruction on numbers and operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, and data analysis and probability, and it contains mini-lessons, investigations, workshops, games, and quizzes.

* These resources are provided by the District Administration magazine and are available for Windows and Macintosh

Looking for a Resource to Aid You in the Classroom?

Great technology tools are available right in your building...

AccessMyLibrary features 30,006,821 articles in the following categories: Arts, Business, Consumer News, Culture & Society, Education, Government, Personal Interest, Health, News, and Science & Technology.

Discipline Tracker is the discipline management tool that all Midview administrators are now using.

Video-On-Demand is available through PowerMedia Plus. You can download video clips for use in your lessons. If you are not familiar with PowerMedia Plus, please see Leslie Rowe or Mercedes Szuch. You can access videos by subject or by Ohio's grade-level curriculum standards.

PowerMedia Plus

Content

2,600 full-length curriculum-based videos...and growing

18,000+ core concept video clips

4,000 audio files...and growing

25,000 educational photos, clip art images, illustrations, and photo objects

5,000 print resources, including teacher's guides and worksheets

Curriculum Integration Features

Create lesson plans for your classes with options for subject, period, title, objectives, *state correlations*, hook, materials, procedures, *differentiated instruction*, assignment, assessment, closure, and recap.

Develop assignments for students to include video clips, audio files, images, class instructions, worksheets, quizzes, and hyperlinks.

Data bank of nearly 20,000 questions. Find 1,000 pre-made quizzes. Create your own questions using the quiz generator.

e • Knowledge

Volume 3, Issue 1

January 2008

THE MIDVIEW SCHOOLS

Distance Learning Labs Bring Field Trips In-School



Kelly Andre, library paraprofessional at North Elementary learns how to set up the new LDLL

The Midview Schools, like most districts, are making tough decisions about which programs to fund to maximize our students' educational experiences on decreasing budgets. One of the areas we are continually at pressure to cut is field trips, due to the high cost of fuel for busing, and the educational time lost while our students are away from the classroom. However, since field trips are such a valuable opportunity to reinforce and enrich instruction, we are doing all we can to find a cost-effective, yet still equally valuable alternative.

An innovative way Midview can achieve this goal is through Mobile Distance Learning Labs, which benefit from interactive videoconferencing systems. A Mobile Distance Learning Lab can provide students with the opportunity to visit a museum or a zoo without leaving their classroom, or experience such before out-of-reach opportunities such as traveling across the country to interview a Pearl Harbor survivor at the Arizona Memorial Museum in Hawaii. The opportunities are endless.

In addition, Mobile Distance Learning Labs still provide hands-on, seamless interaction. Much of the programming available through interactive videoconferencing systems comes complete with materials that the teachers receive by mail

prior to the program broadcast so that students can participate with the instructor. Content providers for this technology approach program development specifically to include such interaction and activity to benefit the learning process (Hasselbacher, 2007).

Midview has purchased two Mobile Distance Learning Labs. Students can experience real-time adventures, explorations and events—travel our country and the world like never before, at much lower cost and in less time than traditional field trips. At the middle and high school level what used to take students out of the building all day now only takes an hour out of the school day. Few classes are missed. Students make up one or two classes rather than an entire day of instruction and work.

Hurray for the New Spam Software!

Our new software is busy at work blocking literally thousands of spam messages per day. The table below reveals the amount of spam and viruses that have been blocked over just two months. Remember, if a message does get past our filter and into your Inbox, please forward the message to Dave Taylor so that he can block any future emails from that sender and make adjustments as necessary. Thank you again for your patience as we evaluated programs and worked through the purchase and installation processes.

	Total	Day	Hour
Blocked	429,183	4,629	60
Blocked: Virus	40	0	0
Quarantined	0	0	0
Allowed: Tagged	1,782	3	0
Allowed	39,882	558	31
Total Received:	470,887	5,190	91

MySpace.com: The Educator's Guide to Understanding MySpace and Resolving Social Networking Issues

MySpace is the premier lifestyle portal for connecting with friends and discovering popular culture. By integrating web profiles, blogs, instant messaging, e-mail, music streaming, music videos, photo galleries, classified listings, events, groups, college communities and member forums, MySpace has created a connected community. It is the most widely-used and highly regarded site of its kind. As you are aware, students are large consumers of the internet. In fact, 78% of teenagers access the Internet from school. Further, 71% of parents believe that much of the responsibility for ensuring children's safety on the Internet belongs to schools and 42% of parents have sought advice from educators on the topic of Internet safety. Based on this data, we believe this Guide is a necessary and valuable tool for educators.

How to Remove a False and/or Offensive Profile

To best understand MySpace.com, we recommend you visit the website (FYI: you will likely have to visit MySpace.com from home, since Midview restricts access to the website through our server) and peruse a few profiles to understand how people are using the site in a harmless way to connect with others. However, there are times when false or offensive account has been created—sometimes even with a staff member's identity. If this happens, MySpace will remove the profile in question. To do so, please send an email to schoolcare@myspace.com from a school email address and include the following:

1. The web address of the false and/or offensive profile, which you can copy and paste into the body of your email from the web browser (explanation below);
2. A brief explanation providing sufficient information to demonstrate that the profile is false or offensive; and
3. Your name and title, and the name, address and telephone number of the school where you are employed.

Underage Users

The MySpace policy allows individuals who are 14 years of age and older to register for the site. While younger individuals attempt to register under false dates of birth, MySpace endeavors to identify and remove such underage users. MySpace deletes thousands of underage users every month.

If you have students who are under the age of 14 and have MySpace accounts, you can email the web addresses of their profiles to schoolcare@myspace.com so that they can remove them from the MySpace.com. You should send the email from your school email account. Be sure to include the following in the email:

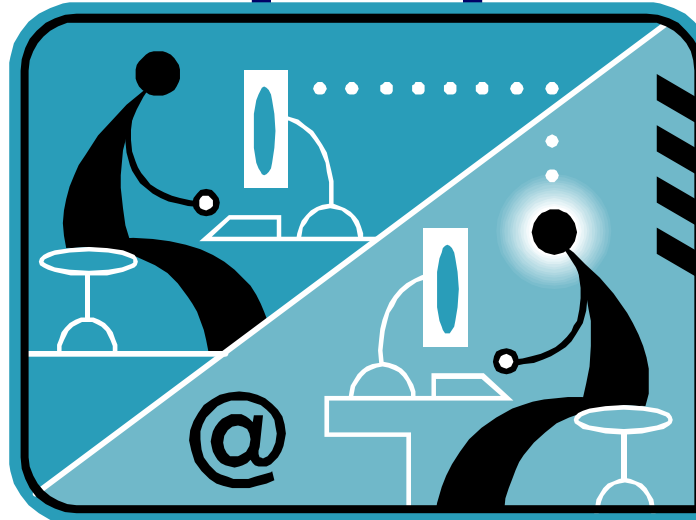
1. The web address of the student's profile;
2. Your relationship to the student;
3. The actual age of the student and how you are aware of it; and
4. Your name and title, and name, address and telephone number of the school where you are employed and the student attends.

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying, usually defined as sending or posting "cruel, vicious, and sometimes threatening messages" on the Internet, is an issue that MySpace takes seriously. Their Terms of Use specifically prohibit cyberbullying and other similar conduct, and attempts to respond quickly and decisively to any instances of such conduct that it discovers. If a student is a victim of cyberbullying on MySpace, please instruct him or her to do the following:

1. Click "Contact MySpace", located on the bottom of any MySpace.com web page;
2. Select "Reporting Abuse" from the first dropdown menu;
3. Select "Report Cyberbullying" in the second dropdown menu;
4. Follow any and all subsequent directions.

Upon receiving this report, MySpace investigates and takes appropriate action. MySpace considers cyberbullying a serious offense and, as a result, has created a rapid response team to respond to cyberbullying complaints. Appropriate remedial action taken by MySpace in response to cyberbullying includes, but is not limited to, recommending that the user block the cyberbully from contacting them, and permanently removing the account of the cyberbully. It is usually best for those students who are the subjects of cyberbullying to contact MySpace themselves in case more information is needed from them, such as copies of the messages sent by the cyberbully, as well as links to the profile in question. Students who are victims of cyberbullying should not delete any messages sent to them. Direct contact by the individual also allows for a more timely response to the complaint.



Concerned Parents

As teachers, you may be contacted by parents regarding MySpace. Please inform the parents that they can contact MySpace with questions and concerns by clicking on "Contact MySpace", located at the bottom of every page on MySpace.com, and following the directions.

Please also instruct parents to click on "Parent Safety Tips," located at the bottom of every page of MySpace.com, or at the following address, which provides safety tips specifically designed for parents:

www.myspace.com/Modules/Common/Pages/SafetyTips.aspx#.

Threats

If you hear about any kind of threat posted on MySpace.com, please gather as much information as possible on the threat and contact your principal so that he or she can get in touch with local law enforcement and take appropriate action including contacting MySpace. The information you gather should include as many of the following items as possible:

1. The method of transmission (such as a bulletin, blog or private message);
2. A print-out copy of the web page that shows where the threat is posted; and
3. The web address of the threat.

MySpace.com also provides parents with step-by-step instructions detailing how to remove their teen's profile from MySpace.com, and links to free software that enable parents to monitor or block their teen's use of the Internet, including blocking MySpace.com

MySpace.com links to the following other helpful resources on Internet safety in the "safety Tips" and/or "Tips for Parents" section:

- Netsmartz.org
- BlogSafety.co
- CSN.org
- SafeTeens.com
- WiredSafety.org
- SafeTeens.com
- WebWiseKids.org
- GetNetWise.org
- www.myspace.com/CommonSenseMedia

General Internet Safety Tips to share with Students

Here are some common sense guidelines that you should urge students to follow when using MySpace and the Internet in general:

- Don't forget that your profile and MySpace forums are public spaces. Don't post anything you wouldn't want the world to know (e.g., your phone number, address, IM screen names, or specific whereabouts). Avoid posting anything that would make it easy for a stranger to find you, such as where you hang out every day after school.
- People aren't always who they say they are. Be careful about adding strangers to your friends list. It's fun to connect with new MySpace friends from all over the world, but avoid meeting people in person whom you do not fully know. If you must meet someone, do it in a public place and bring a friend or trusted adult.
- Harassment, hate speech and inappropriate content should be reported. If you feel someone's behavior is inappropriate, react. Talk with a trusted adult, or report it to MySpace or the authorities.
- Don't post anything that would embarrass you later. Think twice before posting a photo or info you wouldn't want your parents or boss to see!
- Don't mislead people into thinking that you're older or younger. If you lie about your age MySpace will delete your profile.

How to Contact MySpace.com

Administrators and school district employees can email schoolcare@myspace.com from a school email address, or call 310-969-7398.

How to Say it With Emoticon

Even after 25 years of learning the basics, most adults are still playing catch-up when it comes to conversing in emoticon-ese. Luckily, a seemingly limitless supply of emoticon dictionaries have accumulated on the Internet (several of which supplied the following examples), meaning fluency in this graphical lexicon is only a Google search away. As with any language, one should start slowly and master the handful of basic emoticons before moving on to more sophisticated—and cryptic—symbols. And remember, should one stumble, that it's not considered cheating to tilt the computer monitor sideways.

BEGINNER	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED
:-P tongue sticking out	!:-(annoyed	5:-) Elvis Presley
:-D laughing	8-0 shocked	0;>) angel
;>) smirking	:-C very sad	*\0/* cheerleader
-O yawning	<:- dunce-like	<*)-){ something's fishy
:-/ skeptical	%-(confused	//0-0\ John Lennon