

FREE Online Tutorials Available: http://www.education-world.com/a_tech/archives/techtutorials.shtml

EXCEL Tutorials:

- Create a Seating Chart with Excel
- Create a Chart or Graph with Excel
- Create a Grade Book in Excel
- Create a Labeling Worksheet
- Create a Watermark with Excel
- Create an Adlib Story with Excel
- Create an Interactive Map in Excel
- Create Class Surveys with Excel
- Create Self-Correcting Worksheets
- Create Tessellations with Excel
- Timelines in No Time
- Top 10 Excel Questions
- Using Excel to Create Interactive Cross-word Puzzles

SPECIAL NEEDS students:
Accessibility Resources for Special Students

Using the Internet in more creative ways: Use PowerPoint to:

- Blogging Basics: Student Journals On the Web
- Firefox: Open Source Web Browser
- Fun and Games Replace Drill and Kill
- Media Literacy
- Notetaking On The 'Net
- Online Games in the Classroom
- Create a PowerPoint Photo Slide Show
- Create Interactive Maps in PowerPoint
- Create Word-by-Word Audio Books in PowerPoint
- Make a Countdown Clock
- Narrate PowerPoint Slide Shows
- Quiz Students with PowerPoint
- Stop-Action Animation with PowerPoint
- Write Storybooks with PowerPoint

MAC Tutorials:

- Make a Bingo Game with AppleWorks
- Make a Classroom Banner with AppleWorks
- Make an AppleWorks Graph Template
- Create a Presentation with Keynote 2
- Create a Self-Grading Quiz with AppleWorks
- Create Matching Worksheets with AppleWorks

Emerging Technology:

- A Beginner's Guide to Wikis
- Build a Blog
- Creating a Podcast
- Social Bookmarking



CHECK THIS OUT...

www.fitness.gov is the health, physical activity, fitness and sports information website of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. You can find out about the Council and its work, view publications, and link to the resources of other government agencies as well as to health and fitness organizations. To find out how you can start a physical activity program today and stay active and fit for life while earning Presidential awards, visit the free, interactive physical activity and fitness website at www.presidentschallenge.org.

Technology PD on November 7th

Midview's next Professional Day will be held on November 7th, Voting Day. The morning will begin at 7:30 a.m. with a Continental Breakfast in the High School APR, followed by a brief welcoming program at 8:00 with superintendent Howard Dulmage in the gymnasium. The morning will then feature a Child Abuse Update from Kim Meyers, from the law firm of McCray, Muzzilla, Smith & Meyers.

The day has been formatted to include a little something for everyone, so that all employees have the opportunity to benefit from productive sessions while our students are not in classes on this day.

Sessions will be offered focusing on the new math and science textbooks, guided reading libraries, alternate assessment, Physical Education, and the Baldwin Wallace School Partnership Program, with special sessions also being conducted for the secretarial staff, guidance counselors, art teachers, grade level meetings, and CPR training for our bus drivers, bus monitors, bus mechanics, special education paraprofessionals, and educational monitors.

Several sessions being offered on this day focus on technology, including:

- Designing a web page for your classroom on the district website
- Integrating technology with the Scott Foresman textbooks
- Study Island reminders
- Microsoft Excel and Publisher training
- eSIS features, including making labels, tracking fees, taking attendance, ad hoc reporting, and more
- Tim Daley, John Simcik, Jim Conrady and John Brown are going on site visits to high schools that offer Project Lead the Way

This day was designed around the feedback generated through evaluations from our first PD Day in September. We hope you find November 7th to be a rewarding, productive day, to help further prepare you for your continued success in and out of the classroom. The day is what you make of it...good luck!

e - Knowledge

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MIDVIEW LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Now that fall has officially arrived, I am amazed daily at the rapid changing of the trees and the weather. Brrrr. And with that constant reminder of the rapidity of change, I can't believe what I'm about to say: there are some things in life that actually *don't* move as quickly as the changing of the seasons. In this case, I'm talking about the transition to wireless access at the middle school and high school, and moving to fiber across the district. Both of these projects are moving along. At this time, the middle school is now wireless and SoundCom will complete connections at the high school on November 7th, our PD Day, so that classroom instruction will not be interrupted. In addition, Dave Taylor has been working closely with LEECA and GLW so we can transition to fiber soon. This fiber connection will greatly accelerate our Internet access to use resources such as PowerMedia Plus. Throughout this process, Dave has become a great resource to LEECA to interpret and plug-in configuration information.

We hope you enjoy this issue of e-Knowledge. In this issue, we've provided many great resources to help support you in the classroom, and keep you "in the know" about what's happening in the district. Enjoy!



THE AGE OF E-TEACHING IS HERE

Midview has entered the age of E-teaching with the integration of SMART Boards in the classroom. These interactive whiteboards (IWBs) project a computer-generated image onto a 77-inch touch sensitive screen. It is a touch screen computer on a large screen. The purchase of these SMART Boards was made possible through grant funding secured this year.

IWBs enhance the classroom experience by appealing to our students' need for interaction and visual stimulation. Students can write on the board and it will change their handwriting to text. The computer will save all work generated on the whiteboard and easily retrieve all previously taught lessons to build on the next level of difficulty. Teachers can highlight lecture notes and e-mail notes to students who are absent from school

In addition, IWBs build enthusiasm and confidence, while having a positive impact on motivation and engagement. Students enjoy manipulating text and images, making them more likely to engage in the lesson, contributing ideas and actions. Below are some examples of how IWBs may be used in the classroom:

- Students can measure using the built-in rulers.
- The whole class can "vote" on the correct answer using their polling devices.
- Writing assignments can be projected for editing and revision.
- Teachers can create fill-in-the-blank sentences for stu-

dent involvement in real time.

- A teacher can retrieve a map for teaching geography that students can interact with—drawing lines, highlighting areas of study or trace the Mississippi River from its source. For example, students can use markers to select climates and seasons.
- Students can take a class poll and see the graph or chart results instantly.
- Students can drag and drop pictures or data to classify and sort.

In addition, teachers can incorporate action, audio, visual aids and the Internet into their lessons. Whole-class game playing and discussions help teachers to monitor pupil progress and identify areas of weakness. Kent (2004) concluded that "within an e-teaching framework fundamental qualities and skills of teachers do not change; they are enhanced through the use of IWBs [interactive whiteboards] and the convergence of digital technologies that they allow" (p. 4).

Phase I of this project purchased 18 Smart Boards, floor stands, projectors and carts for teachers of math students in grades 7 – 10 and science students in grades 8 – 10, along with special education teachers. **We hope when teachers are not using their Smart Board, they will team up with another teacher to share the technology.**

This project was made possible through \$31,000 from capital improvement funds. Grants and donations were secured in the amount of \$60,872 through the Smarter Kids Foundation, the Yost Family, the Hampson Family Foundation and the Ross Foundation. Additional funding is currently pending.

Next, we would like to purchase 9 additional SMART Boards—three for the middle school and six for the high school. Grants have been sent; however, it may take up to three months to hear back from the foundations and organizations to which we applied.

NEO SMART MOBILE LABS



Students can take the portable Neo Smart keyboards to their desks for writing practice to hone their drafting, revision and editing techniques. After the lesson, the Neos are then returned to their Mobile lab cart to be shared with other classes in the school building.

In December 2004, Ohio adopted technology standards mandating that students be technology literate by the end of 8th grade. To ensure this literacy, Midview must begin to teach basic skills such as word processing at the elementary level, focusing on the development of these skills in students in grades 5-8.

The Neo is a portable, easy-to-use full-sized keyboard and large LCD screen making the tool ideal for writing, keyboarding, and quizzing in the classroom. Each Neo includes software that enables teachers to quickly assess student performance and pinpoint problem areas through the use of real-time quizzes. Keyboarding is an important skill for all students. Keyboarding involves using correct finger placement and building speed for optimal typing accuracy.

At the elementary level, the neo Labs will be wheeled to fifth and sixth grade classrooms for ongoing keyboarding instruction throughout the school year. This will allow for a smooth transi-

tion of activities in the classroom. Students will remove their assigned keyboard from the cart. Once logged on, students will continue where they left off and will work at their own pace. Instructors will monitor progress on an individual basis offering suggestions and encouragement along the way.

At the middle school, we are integrating keyboarding with writing. Our Neo Lab will be used as a writing lab in our language arts classrooms. As students work through the process of writing (pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing and publishing) keyboarding will become secondary and writing content and mechanics will become primary. This is a logical progression to improve writing skills and computing skills at the middle level in preparation for the rigors of high school.

This project required that we seek funding in the amount of \$30,098. This project was funded by the Hampson Family Foundation, the Elementary PTA, the Ross Foundation and other Midview funding. Additional funding is pending. The district purchased four Neo Mobile labs.

Teaching Website Reliability to Your Students



Mercedes Szuch, Library Media Specialist at MMS/MHS, suggests that teachers question if they can trust the reliability of a website. Resources in the media center have been filtered. However, when using the Internet in the classroom, the teacher must scrutinize the content.

Things to consider

- Consider the source – what organization is sponsoring the site?
- Double-check the information – how does this compare with what you've learned from books?
- Is the site up to date? When was the last time the site was revised?
- Think about the quality – is the information well organized and easy to navigate?

Want to learn more?

Read "The ABCs of Website Evaluation" at

http://school.discovery.com/schrockguide/pdf/weval_02.pdf.

To teach students about Internet Literacy, reference Kathy Schrock's *Guide for Educators* at <http://school.discovery.com/schrockguide/eval.html>. Kathy periodically updates her guide. The following is a sample of what is available:

Yahooligans: Internet Literacy—Lessons and activities for students dealing with Internet literacy at <http://yahooligans.yahoo.com/tg/litintro.html>

Critical Evaluation Forms are available at <http://school.discovery.com/schrockguide/eval.html>. The author includes websites to use to demonstrate critical evaluation.

Technology Tips and Resources for Teachers

Important Fact

Many people do not turn off their computers, believing it is better for them to stay on all the time. It's a myth that it takes more energy to start a computer than to keep it running. It doesn't. You will always save energy by turning your computer off when you're not using it. You are not going to wear out your computer by cycling it off and on overnight and on weekends (Jeff Cambers, 2006).

Financial (and other, Darn Interesting) Resources

From *Motley Fool Rule Your Retirement* (2006), some lesser-known websites submitted by readers included:



- Convert currency at www.xe.com/ucc/;
- To verify urban legends such as Bill Gates is giving away cash to people visit www.Snores.com;
- Tired of being productive—don't try this one at work—try Flash, java and Shockwave games at www.fetchfido.co.uk;
- Get history, map, flag, government structure, economic data, and other important facts on any country in the world from the *CIA's World Factbook* at www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook; and
- Check out www.DamnInteresting.com, a site devoted to intriguing, bizarre, and entirely true historical, scientific, and medical facts.

WVIZ/PBS Ideastream Web Resources



- *The Return of the Cuyahoga On-Line Curriculum* (grades 6-8) at www.wviz.org/edsvcs/cuyahoga. This interactive site is correlated to ODE standards in the areas of environmental history, environmental investigation, and eliciting social action.
- *Life Depends on Water: On-line Water Quality Handbook* (grades 3-8) at www.wviz.org/edsvcs/water. This site helps students understand how water is purified naturally along with links to supplementary resources and an animated map.
- *Facing History and Ourselves*: Downloadable study guides are available at www.facinghistory.org.

Inclusion Resources



- <http://www.uni.edu/coe/inclusion/index.html>
This web site is designed for general education teachers, special education teachers, parents, and school staff to help provide some answers about how inclusive education can be accomplished. Resources for making accommodations are included as well as links to other web sites and resource lists for learning more about inclusive education.
- <http://www.help4teachers.com/>
This inclusion website was originally written for the forgotten secondary teacher.

More Elementary Resources

Lesson Plans by Subject

http://www.teach-nology.com/teachers/lesson_plans/

The Best of History Website

<http://www.besthistorysites.net/WWII.shtml>

Author's Websites

<http://www.bibliocat.org/>

Great Websites for Kids K-8

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/greatwebsites/greatwebsitesauthors.htm>

Reading A – Z

<http://www.readinga-z.com/guided/index.html>

Consumer Science Resources

Improving Consumer Awareness

<http://www.consumerjungle.org/>

Getting Media Smart

Helps kids identify and understand advertising strategies and tricks to become more informed consumers.
<http://pbskids.org/dontbuyit/>

The "World's Greatest Recipe Collection"

<http://www.epicurious.com/>

Fabric Link

An educational resource for those interested in fabrics, apparel, and home design.

<http://www.fabriclink.com/>