



Technotes



The Three Village Technology Newsletter

November 2007



Visual Literacy—Growing Up Digital

A picture is truly worth a thousand words! Students need good visualization skills to be able to decipher, interpret, detect patterns, and communicate using imagery.

According to research from 3M Corporation, we process visuals 60,000 times faster than text. This is because we take in all the data from an image simultaneously while we process text in a sequential fashion. Based on the idea that visual images are a language, visual literacy can be defined as the ability to understand and produce visual messages. This skill is becoming increasingly important with the ever-expanding proliferation of mass media in society. The ability to think critically and visually about the images presented becomes a significant skill.

Visual literacy is the ability to interpret, use, appreciate, and create images and video using both conventional and 21st century media in ways that advance thinking, decision-making communication, and learning. Today's children are "growing up digital." Their view of the world is very different from that of adults, thanks to unprecedented access to information, people, and ideas across highly interactive media. Teachers are now serving as facilitators, exploring with their students the vast world of ideas and information.

The challenge to educators is to help students develop the 21st century skills that enable them to fully realize technology's most positive effects. Technology serves as a bridge to more engaged, relevant, meaningful, and personalized learning—all of which can lead to higher academic achievement. Thomas Friedman, states in his book *The World is Flat*, "It's interdisciplinary combinations — design and technology, mathematics and art — that produced YouTube and Google."

Resources For Including Media in the Curriculum



Discovery Education United streaming service from Discovery Educators provides thousands of videos searchable by topic, grade level, and include standards, teacher guides, and quizzes. Your information specialist has the passcodes for each building to create a teacher account.

<http://streaming.discoveryeducation.com/index.cfm>



BrainPOP movies cover the core curriculum subjects in: science, English, math, social studies, technology, & health. Each movie is accompanied by a 10-question interactive quiz, experiment, comic strip, timeline, and printable activities.

<http://www.brainpop.com>



VITAL is a comprehensive online strategy to support and promote student achievement by offering video clips and standards-aligned activities for classroom use. Using VITAL you can find fun, video-based activities for the classroom that support individual student needs; easily align classroom instruction with New York state standards and learn best practices for incorporating media in your classroom.



Teaching Books.net is a multimedia website that generates enthusiasm for Books and reading by providing original, up-close profiles of authors and illustrators, audio excerpts of book readings, guides to thousands of titles and a wealth of resources on children's and young adult literature all in one place.

<http://teachingbooks.net/home/> Password = ESBOCES



NEXT VISTA FOR LEARNING

Next Vista for Learning
An online library of free videos for learners everywhere - find resources to

help you learn just about anything, meet people who make a difference in their communities, and even discover new parts of the world. And Next Vista for Learning wants to post your educational videos online, too.

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

Instructional Technology Staff: Kerrin Welch, Jim Fargione

Instructional Technology Graduate Certificate Program Held in Three Village!



Kudo's to the Three Village cohort of teachers who have begun an 18 credit graduate certificate program in Instructional Technology offered jointly between SUNY Stony Brook and MESTRACT.

Cathy Duffy	Ed Daguerre	Ken Hall
Laura Leidahl	Chris Murphy	Dave Mutter
Angela Nyberg	Melissa Panasci	Leanne Perry
Michael Sacco	Lucemita Salducco	Ken Weiner
Kevin Stiegelmaier	Jim Swierupski	Rick Anzalone

These teachers join the ranks of many other colleagues who have demonstrated a willingness to be lifelong learners so they can become proficient and informed users of technology in the classroom.

SmartBoards Continue to Roll Out

The installation of additional **SmartBoards** continues in the 2007-2008 school year as each junior high math and English department now have access to a mobile SmartBoard, projector and computer. Specific, curriculum based training will be held on December 5 for math and English teachers at the North Country lab. Follow up professional development workshops will continue throughout the school year at our elementary schools and was also woven into every grade level meeting held this fall at North Country. All teachers of Computer and Career Essentials also received a day of training to learn how to integrate this technology into their curriculum. In our secondary schools, a SmartBoard has been installed in each general use lab and in the JH business labs. Additional SmartBoards will be installed at the elementary schools and at the high school over the coming weeks.



Three Village Library Weblogs

WHMS, Gelinass and Murphy

Information Centers have created and are administering their own Blogs using Blogger.com. The software is without charge and empowers the School Media Specialist to publish without delay content of interest to the school and community. Collaborative library assignments, links



of interest, access to the VRC online databases, online catalog and Web 2.0 information sources are available to students and staff. This includes RSS feeds, Teacher Tube and any other Web 2.0 software applicable to instruction.

This effort is consistent with the new Essentials of Learning submitted by the Secondary Information Specialists during the last academic year. References were included to the emerging Web 2.0 technologies.

Our Blogs can be found at the URLs sited below:

WMHS: <http://www.wardmelvillelibrary.blogspot.com>

Gelinass <http://www.gelinassinfocenter.blogspot.com>

Murphy <http://www.murphylibrary.blogspot.com>



Changes in School Island for 07-08

Renaming of Language Arts Course Series The Language Arts course series found on the *Student Home* page has been renamed "English & Foreign Languages" to make it easier to find the new French and Spanish courses.

New Pre-Calculus Course *School Island* now has a new advanced course in mathematics, Pre-Calculus. Pre-Calculus features a wide-range of graphics and fully worked-out problem solutions incorporating both algebraic and calculator techniques. The Calculator Tips include step-by-step instructions and examples of many tasks commonly done on a graphing calculator.