



Technotes



The Three Village Instructional Technology

Spring 2011

Infinite Campus Update: Messenger Feature Added to All Teacher Accounts



Teachers now have the ability to easily e-mail the parents of an entire class or any portion of the class that they wish using the Campus Messenger feature. Teachers using Gradebook can update parents regarding special events, classroom news or provide reminders to check the portal for grades on a specific assessment.

Parents are reminded to enter in an e-mail address into their Campus Portal accounts.

Grade Level Meeting's for Teachers in Grades K-6 Technology Component Includes Podcasting with Audacity and New Netbooks

Audacity, a free, Open Source software program that allows users to easily record, edit and publish sound files was demonstrated and used by all elementary teachers this past March. Teachers created a simple podcast first by using the web-based program Vocaroo.com. This website provides users with the ability to record a simple message, listen to the message and then share it via a hyperlink.



In a second activity, teachers worked cooperatively on developing a social studies based podcast that incorporated an historical event or person from their grade level content standards. Teachers first wrote, or scripted, their podcasts and then recorded them using the new netbooks and Audacity.

A set of new, wireless **netbooks** have been deployed to each of the five elementary schools, replacing the oldest set of aged out laptops.



INCORPORATING VIDEO INTO YOUR LESSONS Try these FREE sites for educational videos that are safe and educationally sound!



VITAL New York on Teachers' Domain is a free digital media service for educational use, brought to you by the NYS public broadcasting stations and their partners. You'll find thousands of media resources, support materials, and tools for classroom lessons, individualized learning programs, and teacher professional learning communities.



Created by Wikipedia co-founder, WatchKnow gathers and organizes educational videos for students ages 3 to 18. Features more than 20,000 videos across 3,000 categories.



A PBS Teachers blog offering Free Resources for Teaching & Learning grades preK-12. The site contains thousands of lesson plans, teaching activities, on-demand video assets, and interactive games and simulations. These resources are correlated to state and national educational standards.



National Geographic provides free maps, photos video and daily news stories about animals, the environment and other cultures.

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Castle Learning Now for Grades 3-12 !

Formerly, a Regents review product, **Castle Learning** is now a web-based student NYS assessment review product for students in grades 3-12 providing practice with field-tested questions, instant feedback and progress reports to pinpoint a student's strengths and weaknesses. Castle Learning is easily accessible from school, library, or home, wherever an Internet-connected computer is available. Castle Learning Online gives students control over how they learn. They can create their own assignments and evaluate the results, select a unit and sub-unit of study in various grade levels, answer questions, and work at their own pace with an opportunity to retry the question. Instant feedback includes a full sentence reason for correct choices. Assessment reports evaluate strengths and weaknesses and even supply definition/vocabulary study sheets to hone their knowledge on terms giving them trouble.



On the Web

[Curriculum 21](#) contains a **clearinghouse** which is an interactive listing of web 2.0 tools, sorted by topic, that teachers and students have found most useful. The site also contains **news feeds** of breaking news from a variety of sources in and about education and resources for **curriculum mapping**.

[Learn A+ Language](#) offers flashcards and games for learning eight different languages. Learn a Language offers activities in Spanish, Italian, German, Russian, French, Japanese, Chinese, and English. The format for Learn a Language is the same for all eight languages. Users select a language then choose if they want to study individual words or phrases.

[Kids Blog](#) This is a great blog designed to be by teachers and their students. As the teacher, you can have as much control as you want on student posts and comments requiring your approval. You and your students can add images and multimedia, as well as, embed web objects. Designed for the beginning bloggers, they provide a choice of very basic themes, suggested for grades 2-9.

Technology Plan Updates 2010-2011

- ⇒ Tech Pilot Program - 16 teachers
- ⇒ Campus Report Cards in Grades 3-5
- ⇒ Open Gradebook in Grades 7-12
- ⇒ Expanded Use of Moodle for District Documents and Resources
- ⇒ Wireless at WMHS
- ⇒ New Computers in HS Library
- ⇒ Netbooks Replace Laptops in Schools
- ⇒ Digital Music and Art Labs in JH
- ⇒ Mobi Wireless Slates and Document Cameras in 7-9 Science
- ⇒ Polyvision Interactive Whiteboards in 10-12 Science and Technology
- ⇒ Office 2010 on new installs
- ⇒ New antivirus—TrendMicro
- ⇒ iPads meeting needs of Students with Disabilities—cost saving apps
- ⇒ Video Conferencing used for CSE meetings allows teacher to remain in HS
- ⇒ New touchscreen cash registers provide staff with student pictures/ easier check out POS.
- ⇒ S.A.V.E. Training delivered online.

