



Website Wednesday

Heim Middle School, 320 Telegraph Rd., Stafford, VA 22554
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Catch my blog at
<http://darciep.blogspot.com>

View previous websites at
the Website Wednesday Ar-
chive Wiki at [http://
teacherplustechnol-
ogy.wikispaces.com](http://teacherplustechnology.wikispaces.com)

Win a Wireless Computer Lab!

CDWG and Discovery Education have announced the seventh annual [“Win a Wireless Lab” sweepstakes](#). The program gives K-12 schools the opportunity to win a 21st-century classroom, complete with tablet or notebook computers, wireless cart, interactive whiteboard, student response system, projector, printer and document camera. The 2009 program will award five grand-prize winners. The best part? You can enter once a day until May 1, 2009! Go to <http://cdwg.discoveryeducation.com/1208> to enter.

Even if our school isn't selected for one of the grand prizes we could still win a video projector from Epson or NEC Solutions, a notebook computer from Acer or Sony, or a digital camcorder from Canon. Random drawings will take place on Feb. 5th, Mar. 4th, Apr. 4th, and May 6th. You must have entered to win at least once in the preceding month to be chosen from this random selection.

Upcoming Events

NORTH TIER classes— Registration began on January 7th! You have until January 28th to register. Classes run from February 9—March 29. Sign up for classes in MLP.

Spring 2009 Catalog - http://mhznetworks.org/images/stories/2009catalog_mhz.pdf

North TIER info - <http://www.mhznetworks.org/norhtier/>

On Tuesday, January 20, at 5:45 pm, join Dennis Swain for “Builders Tips & Tricks in Unitedstreaming”. Students can get access to Unitedstreaming videos from home! This session will show you how by using the built in “Builders” in Unitedstreaming. These include the Assignment Builder, the Quiz Builder, and the Writing Prompt Builder. After demonstrating how these powerful digital media integration tools are utilized, Swain will review quick tips and tricks that make these tools even more accessible. [Click here to enroll.](#)

On Tuesday, January 27, at 7:00 pm, join Jennifer Gingerich for “Digital Kits for Differentiation” as she shows how to gather media from Discovery Education into digital kits that can then be used for differentiated instruction in the classroom! This sounds like a great workshop!! [Click here to enroll.](#)

**All you need is a computer with a volume control or speakers that are connected to the Internet. If you choose to sign up for one of these events, please let me know what you thought about it and what you learned.*

The Knowledge Loom

This website is chockfull of resources for educators worldwide to do the following:

- review research that identifies promising practices related to various themes
- view stories about the practices in real schools/districts
- learn to replicate the success of these practices in your own organization
- add your own stories and knowledge to the collections
- discover supporting organizations and resources, including annotated Web links

More importantly, using the Knowledge Loom makes you part of an active online teaching and learning community. The creators call this website a knowledge loom, because the metaphor suggests a work in progress, a workspace where threads of thought and experience

can be drawn from many sources to craft a cohesive and useful body of wisdom. In fact, the creators of the website feel that an education-focused “Knowledge Loom” suggests education-minded users accessing a workspace where they can weave distributed threads of information together in such a way as to create a fabric that wears well.

The Knowledge Loom has won various awards and accolades, winning Outstanding Product by The Association of Educational Publishers in 2001 and an “A” rating by Education World in 2000.

I searched for materials relating to Middle School mathematics, and received several resources, including a spotlight stories, a special resource collection, and stories on best practices, success stories, and other resources leading to websites outside of The Knowledge Loom.

Here are examples of what I found: [Integrating Technology into Middle School Mathematics](#) and a Success Story in the [East Woods School](#), as well as, [Inquiry and Problem Solving in Middle School Mathematics](#) and another success story of what students at [South Hadley Middle School](#) are doing.

Another one of the resources led me to [mathnerds.com](#), a non-profit free service corporation, whose main function is in providing hints, direction, references, or guidance (not necessarily answers) in many areas of mathematics. I hope this website will be a great resource as well.

TECHNOLOGY TIPS

This issue’s technology tip comes from teacher and technology guru Tammy Worcester. You can visit her site at: <http://>

When you go to the Google homepage, you will find a link for their language tool on the right hand side of the page, by the search box. This tool will allow you to easily translate text. However, as with most computer translator tools, they are not a 100% guarantee, so you may still want to have a native speaker double check some of the

Once on the page with the language tools follow these steps to easy translations:

Step 1. Insert or copy and paste in your text.

Step 2. Then choose the desired language from the pull down menu.

Google Language Tools

Step 3. Then click the translate button.

Step 4. The translated text will appear on the right.




[Marc and Angel Hack Life](#)

This website is actually a blog that discusses 50 Things Everyone Should Know How To Do, a post from June 2008 <http://www.marcandangel.com/2008/06/02/50-things-everyone-should-know-how-to-do/>. While not everything relates to technology or education, there are enough things that do that warrant a look.

Number 2 Operate a computer and Number 3 Use Google Effectively are especially are my list. There are four separate websites under each topic that will give you help, but pay attention to the two on mac and pc basics. Even if you know and feel comfortable with them, there might be some good tips to point out to students.

Under Using Google Effectively, pay attention to [20 Tips for More Efficient Google Searches](#). There are lots of amazing tips here, even one's new to me. Did you know that if you are looking for terms similar

to the one you are searching for you should use the "~" symbol? What about looking up definitions? You can type in "define:" to get a quick definition, i.e. [define:amazing].

Number 44 is another good example, Implementing Basic Computer Security Best Practices. This is something we often take for granted, yet is an important thing to teach our students who are growing up in the information age.

Some of the other 50 things you should know how to do include: Tell a Story that Captivates People's Attention, Handle a Job Interview, manage time, remember names, and Make a Short, Informative Public Speech. All of these can be considered to be important skills for students.



Announcements Corner

Great news! The mac carts are now ready for roll out! You can sign up on GroupWise under the resource calendars. Each cart has their own calendar and can proxied under the names hmmaccart1, hmmaccart2, and hmmaccart3.

I will be meeting with each grade level to go over the procedures for booking and using the mac carts, as well as, a refresher on reserving equipment throughout the building.

That's it for this week!

