



Website Wednesday

Heim Middle School, 320 Telegraph Rd., Stafford, VA 22554
October 8, 2008 Version iii, Issue 3

Contact me at:

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Catch my blog at
darciep.blogspot.com

View previous websites at
the Website Wednesday
Archive Wiki at teacher-plustechnology.wikispaces.com

You can now view my calendar in SchoolFusion for upcoming professional development dates!

The TSIP's Are Coming!

If you are a new teacher or a new teacher to the state of Virginia you will have to complete your Technology Standards Portfolio this year. Classes will be in moodle and will be completed online. I just received an email with some information about this and those teachers who need to complete this, will be receiving information soon.

There are six modules that will need to be completed, with each module having an ending date, about three to four weeks for each module. You will be finished by March 31st. While I am not teaching these courses, if you feel you will need help with an assignment, don't hesitate to come see me or send me an email! I will be more than happy to help you or clarify an



Upcoming Events

The K-12 Online Conference is a two week conference dedicated to providing professional development resources to teachers. Listen to sessions while sitting at your computer! This year's conference theme is Amplifying Possibilities. The conference is October 20-24 and 27-31. You can participate at www.k12onlineconference.org. If you are a first timer, [this website](#) may help. It's totally free, so check it out!

The Discovery Educator Network's Fall Virtual Conference is coming! On Saturday, October 25, from 9am-5pm, throw yourself into sessions that will give you creative and innovative ideas for your classroom! More information to follow. [Click here to register.](#)

**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.*

Teach-nology.com Review



This website, is an organization's quest to provide online resources, which represents a vision of teaching in a world driven by technology. Teach-nology's mission is to provide services designed to support educators' in effectively incorporating technology in teaching and learning.

A large variety of free classroom materials and support tools are available, such as worksheets and pre-formatted rubrics, as well as, articles on teaching and a section on teaching tips!

One of the sections in this website that could be especially helpful are the Teacher Theme Units. There is one theme that particularly con-

centrates on computers and relate to the use of computer technology. To find this themes, look for "themes" in the toolbar menu on the homepage and then select computers; you'll find various lessons and resources on how to build a webpage, introduce excel spreadsheets into lesson plans, and internet safety. You can also follow this link to view other themes: <http://www.teach-nology.com/themes>.



TECHNOLOGY TIPS

Video Resources

Did you realize there are more video resources available to classroom teachers other than [Brain Pop](#) and [Unitedstreaming](#)? [YouTube](#), is popular among our students and I've found some videos there in the past that teachers have used in the classroom. There's also [TeacherTube](#), which has a gigantic amount of video resources.

The problem is often the filter system blocks you from

getting to these other websites, but there is a way around it!

With [YouTube](#), you have to use it at home and convert the file and download it. Then you can play it like a [Brain Pop](#) video. [TeacherTube](#) should not be effected by the filter, but knowing how to download the videos is. I have placed directions for using both of these websites on the staff shared drive under the Technology folder.

If you decide to convert the [YouTube](#) files, you can place them on your folder through the portal and not have to worry about transferring it to a flash drive or remembering to take it with you. It will be waiting here at school for you. As always, if you have questions, please come see me!



PBS TeacherSource Review

PBS TeacherSource materials are developed by trained and practicing educators. TeacherSource combines lesson plans and online activities found elsewhere on PBS Online with original activities and professional development opportunities. Their unique "Get Local" feature allows teachers to receive information from their local PBS member station about education resources close to home. In each subject area, you'll find offerings such as: PBS Lessons and Activities, Featured Lessons & Activities, Concepts Across the Curriculum (including monthly interdisciplinary activity ideas), Recommended Books and Recommended Links, and Media Literacy (including statistics, studies, and activity ideas).

Search the PBS TeacherSource database of more than

4,500 lessons plans and activities by keyword, subject, and/or grade. Then, automatically correlate your results to state and national standards.

TeacherSource also provides information on local education outreach efforts and local education highlights from across the country.

As far as professional development goes, they also offer online courses provided by PBS and local stations for CEUs and graduate credit. More than 50 courses in math, reading, and technology integration are available. What's even better is the free two-hour online orientation to see if taking a course online is right for you! You will have to sign-up for a membership, but that's free!. Some of the courses offered are: Teaching Writing in the Content Ar-

reas, Creating Units to Support Differing Learning Styles, Curriculum Mapping I, Enabling Students with Special Needs to Succeed in Math Class, The Odds Are Good: Probability for Grades 6-8, Scientific Inquiry and Field Work: Discovering with Technology for Grades 6-8.



Announcements Corner

Lots of technology news this week:

- Our subscription to SOLPass has come through! This is a great resource for Social Studies, Science, and Algebra and will help students with their games and simulations. Visit <http://www.solpass.org> and the password is "timberwolves".
- After the faculty meetings on Monday, we are progressing on the professional development for ExamView. 6th grade will be

on?? 7th grade will be on Fridays, and 8th grade will be on Wednesdays??.

- We also now have document scanners in the building! These scanners will be used for scanning worksheets, pictures, and ExamView Scantrons. One scanner is set up in the Library's computer lab and the other is located in my office, along with a teacher computer. Both scanners are now up and running!



- The smart airliners have been distributed. If you have not picked yours up yet, please do so ASAP. Robert is working on installing these as I type. Please remember to leave the box beside your computer. Thanks!

**All links to websites in this issue are in purple. To view a website via a link, hold down the ctrl button on your keyboard and at the same time click on the text.*