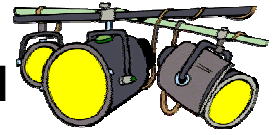


SPOTLIGHT: Chris Bernd (Karigon) Uses a Blog as a Classroom Communication Tool



According to former Secretary of Education **Richard Riley... the top 10 in-demand jobs in 2010 did not exist in 2004**



We are preparing students for jobs that don't yet exist.

Are YOU preparing students for THEIR future?

Fifth grade teacher Chris Bernd believes he is by providing opportunities for students to use both traditional and more contemporary learning tools. Chris, who is new to Shen but previously taught in New York City, Scarsdale and at the Ark Community Charter School in Troy, created a blog that students can use at school and at home to communicate about class events, school programs and world news.

When the class read From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E. L. Konigsburg about a girl and boy who run away to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, students interviewed their parents and used the blog as a forum for writing and sharing their experiences at museums. Students and parents have responded positively to enriching and extending the curriculum in this way.

In the future, Chris hopes to use the blog for literature circles and reading groups, perhaps connecting with other classes in the school or across the district. He envisions a variety of virtual dialogues. For example, parents and students might respond to a current events article on the blog.

Blogs are part of what is commonly referred to as Web 2.0 tools – that is, tools that allow users to *interact* with information on the web rather than just *consume* it. Many blogging tools are available for educators. Chris currently uses Class Blogmeister (www.classblogmeister.com) but is also experimenting with 21Classes (www.21classes.com). After the initial setup, he spends about 15 minutes a day managing and maintaining the blog.



Chris Bernd

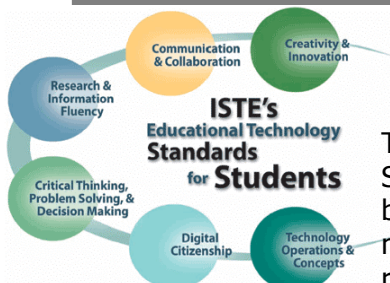
Dear Mr. Bernd, I think the class blog is a very handy thing because it makes homework fun for once! Also...since you post your comments on the blog other classmates can read them and maybe learn something.

Your Friend, Sarah

"We must prepare learners for their future, not our past"

- David Thornburg

Chris recognizes that innovative tools such as blogs help achieve learning objectives including writing to communicate ideas, building class community and understanding the world beyond the classroom. "One of our roles is to prepare student for the world ahead of them. I feel it's our responsibility as educators to incorporate as much technology into our practice as we can."



NETS REFRESH 2007: Educational Technology Standards for Students

The recently updated National Educational Technology Standards for Students (www.iste.org/Content/NavigationMenu/NETS/For_Students/NETS_S.htm) better reflect skills and tools necessary for student success. Every state and many countries have adopted, adapted, aligned with or otherwise referenced the NETS in their state technology plans, certification, licensure, curriculum and/or assessment documents. NETS Student Profiles (www.iste.org/inhouse/nets/cnets/students/pdf/NETS-S_Student_Profiles.pdf) provide examples of learning activities for PreK-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12.

NETS for Students (PreK-12):

1. Creativity and Innovation
2. Communication and Collaboration
3. Research and Information Fluency
4. Critical Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making
5. Digital Citizenship
6. Technology Operations and Concepts

Table of Contents

- ◆ [Spotlight: Chris Bernd's 5th Grade Blog](#)
- ◆ [NETS Refresh 2007](#)
- ◆ [District Tech Integration Committee Update](#)
- ◆ [Upcoming Prof. Dev. Opportunities](#)

District Instructional Technology Integration Committee Update

This committee has met three times since September and hopes to distribute a quarterly progress report shortly. One priority has been to help facilitate the process of providing a digital projection system for every classroom/learning space over the next 3-5 years, beginning with a significant influx of systems for 2008-09. The projection "package" will include a ceiling-mounted LCD projector connected to a teacher station computer, audio capability, a projection screen, TV tuner card and DVD player (added to the computer). This "all-in-one" solution will allow the user to control projection of computer, TV or DVD content through the computer, thus minimizing the need for stand-alone TVs and DVD players. Professional development will be planned to assure these tools get used effectively for instruction. Projection systems will be distributed equitably based on the percentage of total student population enrolled at each school. Individual schools will prioritize the order in which rooms will receive the projection systems.

Coming soon to a classroom near you...



WELCOME

BEV GIRARD TO THE PROF DEV OFFICE

Please note and warmly welcome Beverly Girard as the new secretary in the Prof. Dev. Office. She comes to us from Koda Middle School. We are so happy to have her join our team.



Look for the mid-winter/spring Prof Development booklet in faculty rooms and online in January.



Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

Now Featuring...



Literacy is an important district initiative. Take advantage of upcoming literacy workshops such as:

Using Holistic Assessments (3rd-5th)

December 6th from 8:30 – 12

Components of a Balanced Literacy Program (K-5th)

Dec. 12th 8:30- 3 (also available in a half day format that day)

Powertools for Reading in Content Areas (6th-12th)

January 23rd from 8:30 - 3

Workshop	Date	Time
Video Games & the Optimal Learning Experience	11/27	8:30-3
Leah Mermelstein (K-2)	11/28	8-3
Sustaining Professional Learning Communities (K-5)	11/28	4-5:15
Integrating Tech in HS Science	11/29	9-3
Video Production	12/3	9-3
Effective Teaching Strategies II	12/5	8:30-3
Integrating Tech in 5 th Grade	12/5	9-3
Using Holistic Assessments (3-5)	12/6	8:30-12
Co-Teaching 6 th Grade	12/6	12-3:30
Collegial discussions (Grade 2)	12/6	2:45-3-45 3:45-4:30
Warriors Journey: Motivating Reluctant Learners	12/7	8:30-3
Portfolio Development	12/10	8:30-3
Integrating Tech in Kindergarten	12/11	9-3
Components of Balanced Literacy (K-5)	12/12	8:30-11 12:30-3

Workshop	Date	Time
Website Design for Teachers	12/12	9-3
Curric Dev. with Technology	12/13	1/2 or full day
Integrating Technology in HS Soc Stud	12/17	9-3
Teaching Using Inquiry	12/18	8:30-3
Evaluate websites w/ a critical eye: K-5	1/8	9-3
Constructing Meaning through Literature (follow-up class)	1/8	12-3
Podcasting in English Classrooms (6-12)	1/9	9-3
Co-Teaching 6 th Grade	1/10	12-3
Roundtable: Portfolio Peer Review	1/10	4-5:30
Think, Learn & Work Cooperatively in 21 st Century	1/15	8:30-3
BoardMaker (Elem Speech and SpEd)	1/15	12:30-3
Dancing the Dance	1/17	8:30-3
Website Design for Teachers	1/17	9-3
Curric Dev. with Technology	1/18	1/2 or full day

To register, submit a completed [registration form](#) to the individual(s) in your building responsible for identifying workshop attendees. Once the form has been initialed as approved, it can be submitted to the Prof Dev Office at the D.O. Be sure to complete a Prior Approval form.