

DID YOU KNOW

GetNetWise.org

GetNetWise is an online resource for families that, with the click of a mouse, will deliver information and tools needed to guide children to a safe, enriching experience online. Functioning as an interactive directory, GetNetWise contains aggregated and syndicated content. It is the result of a broad industry effort to create an online environment where families feel empowered with the tools and information they need to safeguard children while providing access to an unprecedented wealth of global resources, information, and contacts available on the Internet.

District Technology Committee Agenda February 8, 2007 – Minutes

1. Review of meeting Norms **2. Review of Blackboard and New Items**

- Course Documents – Suggested Policy Changes
- Cyber Information
 - My Space Parent Article
 - Text Messaging Article
 - Parent Internet Safety

Pamphlet

- Discussion Board
- Agenda/Minutes – December's Minutes

3. 8th Grade Technology Literacy Assessment

Discussion on the testing format regarding the use of Blackboard or Examview.

The decision was made to go with Examview again this year because of speed concerns and multiple students testing at the same time.

Questions were reviewed from last year regarding the districts initiative in gathering data on our students. Some of the questions were revised and new questions were added. These questions will be

updated and then posted on Blackboard for review.

4. 4th grade technology survey regarding technology access at home

A similar survey was discussed in order to see the differences in students from the 4th grade level to the 8th grade level. Questions were designed and would be entered in a Zoomerang survey for 4th grade students. This survey would be done in their technology classes in the late spring.

Questions will be designed and also posted on Blackboard. Further discussion of these questions will be at the April meeting.

5. Goals for Tech Plan

Goals were reviewed and it was shared to think of ways to show achievement towards these goals at the next meeting.

1. Integrating the use of technology in the district adopted K-8 aligned with METS and 9-12 curriculum aligned with Content Standards and Benchmarks (and the 9-12 grade METS when available).

2. Providing support and training for staff as they implement the use of technology aligned with the Michigan Educational Technology Standards (METS) and the National Educational Technology Standards (NETS).

3. Providing access to technology for students, staff, and community to enhance learning and communications.

4. Evaluating and implementing available technologies to increase student achievement.

5. Assessing student achievement relative to the integration of technology based on the METS and NETS as well as local curriculum.

6. Website Resource Tab

Examples of other district websites have been posted on Blackboard and members have been asked to review.

7. Cable Channels

At this time the decision was made to switch TLC to Animal Planet on the cable stations. This will help with providing more curriculum enhancement material for the science classes.

8. Vista and Office 2007

A brief viewing of Vista was made available. At this time the decision is not to go to Vista for the 2007-08 school year due to hardware specifications.

An Office 2007 demo was not available at the time, but the consensus was also to wait on utilizing this new program. A couple of teachers have expressed interest in piloting next fall.

MARCH is Reading Month

As we continue to celebrate March is Reading Month with the Theme of "Stepping into Reading." Here is a great way to work with those students who may be reluctant to read provided by Scholastic.

Integrating Reading into Everyday Life for Reluctant Readers

Making reading and language activities a part of everyday life is especially important in motivating reluctant readers, who often see reading as a chore. Try these tips to build language skills in ways that hardly seem like reading.

Read Funny Favorites

Share comics, articles, jokes, and stories that make you laugh with your child. Read them aloud during breakfast or make it an after-school ritual. Ask him to tell you his funny anecdotes. Write them down or start a scrapbook of humor that he will smile to read.

Based on the Book... or the Movie

It is great to give your child the book of a movie she liked, but also encourage reading by giving her books based on TV and movies that she already watches. From the Powerpuff Girls to Yu-Gi-Oh! many shows have activity books and comics she will enjoy.

Books a Plenty

Make sure that there are books available to your child in every room of the house and everywhere he goes, from having magazines in the car to bringing a comic book for him to read while waiting on line. He might not read them, but if he's bored, he just might thumb through a book if it's readily available.

Open the Closed Captions

Why not put words on the screen when the tube is on? It may help your child connect written words with spoken words. You can also make a game of catching errors in the

captions, which happens more often than you might think.

Talk About TV and Movies

Encourage your child to tell you about the shows he watched. Have him retell the plot and describe the characters to build his sense of narrative, story, and general comprehension skills. You can also write a review or summary of the programs together.

Interactive Is Interesting

Use the Internet with your child to explore a subject she enjoys. Try to find sites that include fun graphics or games and aren't too text-heavy. Just reading the directions for games and learning how to navigate will build her ability to follow directions and show her a practical and engaging use for developing reading skills.

Get a Subscription

Kids enjoy getting mail, and a subscription to kids' magazine will give him something to look forward to every month that is his. The idea that the magazine is just for him makes it more appealing to read.

Go to Story Hours, Readings, and Plays

Show her that a lot of kids and adults enjoy books by going to readings and story hours at your local library or bookstore. Plays are especially great, since they are a form of literature designed not to be read, but to be seen.

Introduce Pig Latin

Make learning a new language a fun experience by teaching your child to speak in Pig Latin. The idea of talking in code is appealing, and will actually develop your child's ability to mentally picture words, how they are spelled, and rearrange the letters within them.

HELP CONSERVE ENERGY

Everyone is reminded to turn off all equipment in classrooms and work areas over the SPRING BREAK. This includes: computers, monitors, VCR/DVD players, printers and Phonic Ear units. Please do not leave the Phonic Ear transmitter charging during the break since it may ruin the batteries.

