

Technology to Enhance/Upgrade Curriculum

How to address the “I only have one computer in my classroom...I can’t do anything with one computer and 28 students” dilemma

- Use of **Today’s Meet/Titan Pad** to “**record the lesson**” for other students (each student takes a turn daily)
- Use of **class wiki** to take daily notes (each student takes a turn)
- Use of **class wiki** to create a book discussion/club - students and teachers comment on books they are reading and make recommendations to others
- Use of **screencasting** to create tutorials (by teachers or students) - how to solve a math problem, how to balance an equation, how to write a paragraph, how to use a certain technology tool
- Use of a tech tool for **group reporting/class data collection** (ex - wallwisher, surveymonkey, titanpad, twiddla)
- Use of **class blog** to encourage student writing - anything completed on paper can be completed using a blog and could be assigned for homework or center work
- Use of **class blog** to involve parents - encourage students to get their parents responding to the class blog
- Participate in the “**Student Blogging Challenge**” <http://studentchallenge.edublogs.org/previous-participants/students-march-2011/>
- **Prior to using any tool, critique blogs, wikis, podcasts, etc** and determine what makes a high quality blog, wiki, podcast, screencast
- **Skype an expert** (author/scientist) into your classroom - have students prepare appropriate questions to be asked prior to the event
- **Skype with a museum or other educational location** and provide students with a virtual field trip
- **Skype with another classroom** in the district, Lehigh Valley, state, US or other country to create a global connection and provide differing perspectives on various issues
- Collaborate with other classrooms using **epals, The Lunchbox Project, Flat Classrooms, Around the World with 80 Schools**)
- **Display pictures/watch a video (PicLits, Storybird, Discovery Ed, PBS Write Now Writing Prompts)** to encourage creative writing
- **Assign students a technology tool to research/learn and then teach the class** - the teacher does not have to be the expert
- Students apply the **REAL strategy** to evaluate the content of websites
- Students use a **digital camera/phone to take and post pictures of various events** to a class wiki
- As a grade level decide what tech tools you want students to use and **each teacher teaches one tool**

Why spend all of this time on technology?

We need to encourage teachers and provide support as they work to upgrade their learning activities/assignments to:

- Promote 21st Century Skills
- Infuse global education/connections into the curriculum
- Promote higher level thinking skills
- Increase student engagement
- Increase the level of rigor
- Create products for a larger audience
- Gain a wider perspective on various topics
- Collaborate/share information with others
- Create opportunities for problem based learning