

Technology

"Teachers need to integrate technology seamlessly into the curriculum instead of viewing it as an add-on, an afterthought, or an event."

- Heidi-Hayes Jacobs

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 2 - April 2013

TCEA 2013

We had four teachers attend the TCEA annual convention. We asked them to write up a little article on their experience.

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We've all done it, even if you don't admit to it. Here's how to care for the tech items in your room.

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Print out this page for future reference on how to care for your SmartBoard/Promethean board.

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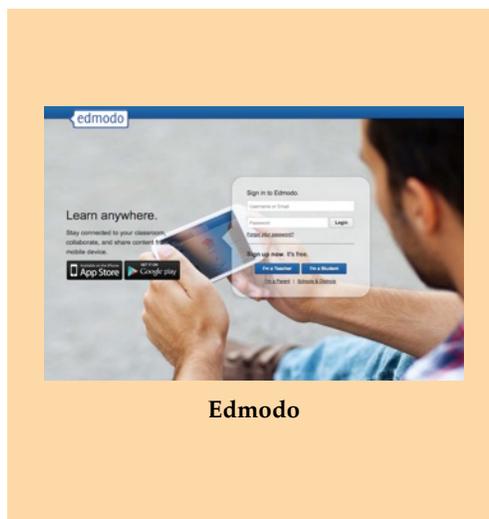
Teacher Feature

Many teachers at GMS, have been connecting with their students via a site called Edmodo. See how they engage the students in a safe online environment.

Facebook, either you love it or hate it; you use it and are addicted to it or you refuse to even sign up. Either way, you've heard of it. Well, Edmodo is like Facebook but it's much safer and teacher/student friendly.

Social Networking

Social networking is everywhere you look now and Facebook is at the forefront. According to the [Pew Research Center's Millennials: A Portrait of Generation Next](#) report, 73% of online teens use social networking sites. But the main problem that keeps popping up about the site is security and online safety. So, how do you use that tool in the classroom while keeping your and your student's information safe? Edmodo is the answer. Your students know Facebook and the environment of Edmodo is not far from what they're used to. The



Edmodo

design is much like the status updates of Facebook also. Discussions in the classroom can be continued, polls can be completed and even badges can be awarded to motivate your students.

Safety First!

Edmodo's main advantage over Facebook is privacy. It seems like every time you turn around you hear about Facebook changing it's privacy settings. It's confusing! With Edmodo however, your group is limited to your students (or a fellow teacher) and it can even be closed after your

students are all members. Also, student accounts are done after the teacher creates their group and gets a group code. The student enters the code and signs up, no email needed! Also there's no "friend requests". The students can only join the groups for which they have the access code.

So, what is Edmodo?

The website states that "Edmodo is a secure, social learning platform for teachers, students, schools and districts". Your students can collaborate, access homework, grades and even school notices. With the help of the Apps in the Edmodo system, they can even get graded while playing games. They can access this information and finish digital homework from home. Not only all of this but the parents can have their own access to see their child's grades and participation. Our teachers have their students read ebooks, read and discuss assignments as well as take quizzes from the Quizlet app all through Edmodo. For the teachers there's a wealth of knowledge right at your fingertips. Once you join a community that interests you, you have the information from fellow educators available. There websites, links, resources and even projects are shared that you can use or share with your own group. It really is a wonderful and safe online teaching tool. To learn more or sign up for a free account visit Edmodo.com.



TCEA 2013

Four teachers were selected to go to Austin to attend the TCEA annual convention. Below is a recap from each of the teachers in their own words. Also coming in June is TCEA Tots & Technology where the elementary grades get involved.

Jamie Cook - GMS



TCEA is a wonderful experience that everyone should have. Technology is the present and will definitely be the future of not only education but our everyday lives. As educators, we need to embrace the change, and with that change, the students will embrace the knowledge.

Before I went to TCEA, I had already incorporated Edmodo (edmodo.com) into my classroom. The kids love it. They consider it to be Facebook for school! Edmodo was discussed by many people at TCEA. You can create assignments, quizzes, surveys, or just send a message to the class. Everything can be turned in through Edmodo, so paper is saved.

Many schools have adopted BYOT (bring your own technology) or BYOD (bring your own device). Students are texting in answers to a google voice number. You can get a number for free! As the man was presenting, his phone was going off with answer texts from his class! He knows they were working, and he wasn't even there! Texting the answer was optional, so those students without a phone were not left out.

QR codes are also big right now. My students love making QR codes and then scanning the other ones created by the rest of the class. So much information can be represented by one little bar code.

I walked away with some great apps, as well: Grade cam (you can grade a scantron with your iPad), Screen chomp (records what you write and what you say), Flipboard (you create what you want the students to "flip" through. I set up my class Facebook page, so the kids can flip through the page and see the posts without ever being on Facebook).

There is so much out there in terms of technology. Add anything you can, and the students will run with it.

Tammy Gannoun - GMS



One thing I like was a session called "Text It In" that allows students to bring their own

devices to school. This would benefit our district allowing students to bring their own devices to school. The session showed how the students can interact with smart boards using apps on the devices.

I think this would allow technology to be used weekly if not on a daily basis. One thing I really liked was that the students can work the bell ringer as they walk into the room on their devices then the students can send their answers to the smart board. The teacher can then upload all the answers after the students are finished. This would be really nice and interactive for the students...no more paper pencil.

Diane Clark & Brandon Pigeon - GHS



As representatives of Gladewater High School, Diane Clark and Brandon Pigeon attended the Texas Computer Educator Association (TCEA) conference in Austin in early February.

While attending the conference, they focused their attention on 1:1 technology integration in the classroom, BYOD/T (Bring Your Own Device/Technology), and SMART board and SMART technology integration in the classroom.

New techniques and ideas for technology integration includes the use of iPads for everyday classroom instruction, student use of cell phones for texting in answers to questions and test taking, ways to incorporate the SMART board and Notebook software in all core curriculum areas.



Handle with care!

So, you walk around with your laptop open, you have your hot coffee sitting next to your computer, you move the data projector right after you turn it off and what happens...a work order soon follows. The tech department has seen it all: cracked laptop cases, exploding data projector lamps, laptop water damage and more! Here's some quick tips on how to care for your technology in your classroom.

Laptop/computer care: When you're done with your laptop or need to move around, close it up! Don't walk around with your laptop open. Your laptop isn't a pen holder either, so don't close up your laptop with a pen inside. Your laptop may look pretty sturdy but please don't pile stuff on top of it. It's easier said than done and we all do it, but be careful when drinking next to your computer. Even just a little spill can wreak havoc on your computer. Use a case or a laptop bag when you're on the go; they are specially made to cushion your computer.

SmartBoard/Promethean Board: We have a wonderful document on the server to let you know how to care for your board or you can see the last page of our newsletter and print it out for future reference!

Data projector & document camera: If you need to move your data projector, WAIT! Never move your data projector when it's on or warm, the bulb could burst! Turn it off at night, if you're not there the projector and document camera don't need to be on. And when a red light comes on, it's usually a pretty easy fix of cleaning it out. Clean the filter and blow it out with air occasionally or contact your STC by work order and they can take care of that for you.

iPads: Sure they have a nice case on them but that doesn't protect them from everything. They are not indestructible, so be gentle. Oh and the no liquid rule applies here too, folks.

Cords: I know, you're thinking...cords? This one is a safety issue too. If you have cords running across your room it's dangerous! You or a student could trip and get hurt or could cause your tech items to fly off the table or break. Plan your room so there's less incidence of cords running everywhere. If you just can't make it work, duct tape works too and it now comes in cool colors!



iPads, we got 'em

Tablets are all the rage in classrooms now and we're working hard to keep up with it! One middle school teacher has a classroom set of iPads and we've got five circulating through the schools as a trial.

Computers are getting smaller and smaller it seems. We all remember the days of chunky desktop computers with very large towers and even bigger monitors. Now the iMacs have no tower; it's all housed in the sleek monitor. But, what's next?...

Tablets.

Candy Keller, 6th Grade Math teacher, has a complete set of classroom iPads. She feels they are a great learning tool and with all the apps she uses the students stay engaged. Some that she uses are: Educreations, Socrates, Nearpod (as a classroom management/instructional tool) as well as game apps like Freddie Fractions, Equivalents and Numberline. She's also branching out to create Google Docs in which she links to the home screen on the iPad so the students can complete a quick assessment. More advanced students are creating podcasts using Puppet Pals or Toontastic so a cartoon is teaching the concept.

Ms. Keller has many plans for the future that include more apps, QR readers to self check their problems as well as increasing the creation of podcasts. She states that she loves the iPads and hopes to use them next year, as she has "only begun to use them" like she wants.

Right now Tess Nichols, Gay Avenue Kindergarten teacher, is using five iPads as a trial with some of our youngest students. They are using them during group time as a center as well as during the end of the day for good behavior. The iPads are also a listening station with apps like MeeGenius, Storia and Read Me a Story. Her unique collection/charging station is a dish drainer! She said

the iPads "fit in the grooves and all the cords are in one spot." She's looking forward to expanding the use of the iPads in the classroom as well.



iTe@ch

The technology department has started a professional development incentive at Broadway called iTe@ch. See what all is involved and how it's going.

As we all know, money is scarce, so we want to make certain that new classroom technology is put in the hands of the teachers who have the time to learn how to use these resources and integrate them on a regular basis.

The technology incentives are provided to encourage and reward those teachers willing to be the technology leaders on their campus.

The requirements are simple:

- Attend scheduled training.
- Meet with Glenda during the conference period once a month.
- Present at TLC meetings.
- Display student projects on classroom website or blog.
- Be a "technology" mentor for your campus.

The teachers who applied and were approved received two iMacs in their classrooms for student use. The goal is to have students and classes create digital projects using a variety of media rich tools. Not only do they get these wonderful tools in their classrooms but the teachers who are a part of the program also get to go to a TCEA event in White Oak in June.

And it's not just iMacs in the classroom, either. The Broadway open lab is now filled with them, a complete set thanks to this incentive program. Since this is happening at Broadway, we wanted to concentrate the Macs there. By doing this, what was started in the classroom can now be finished or tweaked in the open lab by the entire class.

We are very excited by the response and eagerness to learn and work on the Macs. In the short time they've been in the classroom, there have already been some great projects completed. Be on the lookout for the links so you can see what our Baby Bears are up to with this technology!

Care of the SmartBoard

by Jay Olson ESC7

- Erase dry-erase ink from the writing surface as soon as possible. The longer dry-erase ink remains, the more difficult it is to remove.
- Before using a cleaner, remove excess dry-erase ink residue from the writing surface with a damp cloth.
- Use an alcohol-free household glass cleaner, such as Windex glass cleaner, to clean the writing surface. Clean it at regular intervals or whenever you notice that the dry-erase ink remains on the screen after erasing.
- Do not spray cleaner directly onto the surface. Instead, lightly spray cleaner on a cloth, and then gently wipe the screen.
- Do not allow excess glass cleaner to flow into the crack between the lower frame and the writing surface, or into the pen tray recesses.
- If you can still see ink marks after cleaning the surface with Windex glass cleaner, use a dry-erase marker cleaner, such as Sanford Expo whiteboard cleaner.
- For stubborn stains, use isopropyl alcohol (IPA) to clean the writing surface.
- Do not use abrasive chemicals or cleaners on your interactive whiteboard.
- Do not use permanent markers to write on your interactive whiteboard.
- Do not use sharp writing instruments such as ballpoint or fine-pointed pens, which can damage the surface if they're applied with heavy pressure.
- Do not use adhesive tape on your interactive whiteboard, because removing the tape can damage the top layer of the writing surface.
- Do not use low-odor dry-erase markers, such as Sanford Expo with low-odor ink, because the ink is more difficult to remove.

Removing Permanent Marker Ink Stains

Solution 1: Use a commercial cleaner such as Sanford Expo whiteboard cleaner over the permanent ink stain, allow the solution to dry, and then wipe the surface clean with a soft cloth.

Solution 2: Use a standard or high-odor dry-erase marker. These markers contain solvents that remove permanent ink. Don't use low-odor or non-scented dry-erase markers, because they don't contain the appropriate solvents.

- Cover the permanent ink with the high-odor dry-erase ink.
- While the ink is still wet, wipe the screen with a soft cloth.
 - Note: Do not allow the dry-erase ink to dry before wiping the screen

