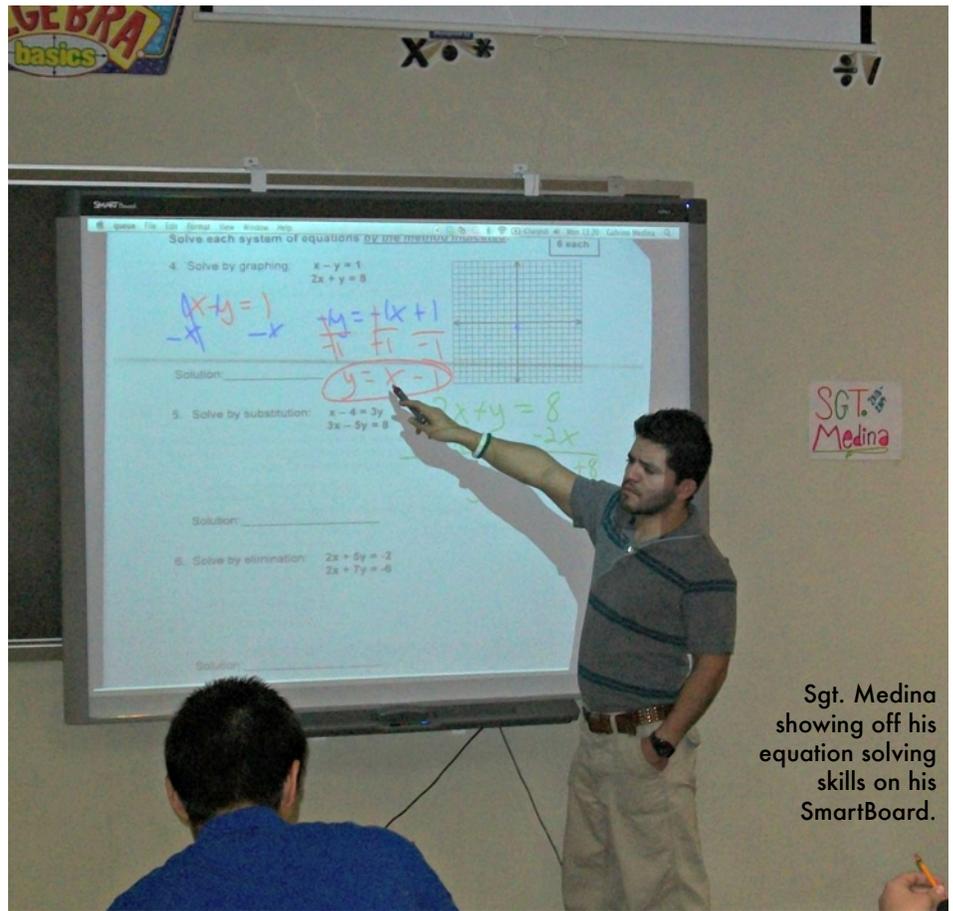


technology

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Sgt. Medina showing off his equation solving skills on his SmartBoard.

"There's nothing magical about any tech tool. Real magic rests in the minds and hearts of teachers using digital tools to introduce students to new individuals, ideas and opportunities."

- Unknown

Laptops at the Middle School

Our Middle School is the newest campus to receive laptop carts. They now have three that are available to check out and five one-to-one classrooms and they are asking for more!



Carla Templeman's Social Studies class

grade History teacher, is having a great time with the laptops. Her classes have been using them for research, Quizlet (to review for tests) and she has her students use google docs to take quizzes and tests online. Patricia McCormick's 7th grade math students are using them for self-check quizzes. She has already seen an improvement in her class test scores!

The students are enjoying getting their hands on the extra technology as well. These students have not had the opportunity to have a macbook in their classrooms, so they are taking full advantage with research projects and quizzes. Class time is more enjoyable and more productive from the student's point of view.

Usage and Requests for More

The usage of the carts has been pretty impressive even with this roll out in it's early phase. We even have teachers fighting over

the cart and having to request it a month in advance!

Openness and willingness to welcome new technology into the classroom makes us excited for our teachers and students. We have been asked for more carts on many campuses and we are working on making that happen.



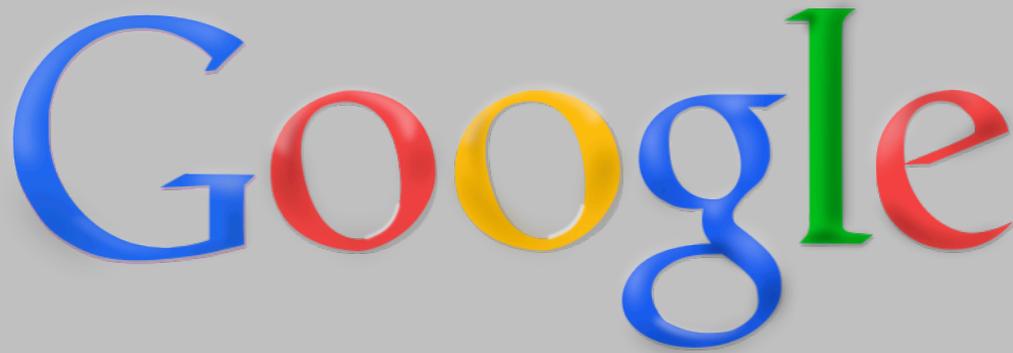
Jill Smith's Science class

Teachers and Students

We have heard wonderful feedback from the teachers regarding the usage of the laptop carts. Not only do they like having the technology available to them but they enjoy the opportunities to teach and show the students new tools. Carla Templeman, 6th

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Gladewater ISD is moving to Google!!! After years of discussion, watching, and learning, we feel the time has never been better to integrate Google Apps.

Gladewater is Going Google

You've heard whispers. You've heard gossip. You may have even heard us say the word "Google transition" a time or two. Well, now it's time to let out the well-known secret...Gladewater ISD is Going Google!

February 21, 2014 we will be moving our First Class services to Google. This includes email first, with calendar, chat (instant message), and more in our second phase coming soon. We will have training opportunities to show you what Google can do for you.

More Space

How do you like the sound of 30GB? Google Apps has merged to a unified storage bringing together Google Mail and Drive, giving you more space than ever!

Due to this new combined storage you don't have to delete important emails or email attachments any longer. Just save them in your Google Drive and it will always be at your fingertips.

Let us just put this into perspective for you; right now with First Class most people have 50MB of storage space, with Google you will have approximately **30,000MB!** This is an estimate, it's actually more than that, but that's 600 times the space you have now! By changing to Google, you will never have to worry about not being able to send or receive emails due to being over space quota.



Google Drive was released on April 24, 2012

Apps

Google Apps are wonderful additions to the Google arsenal. Instead of having to pay for additional programs, Google offers these applications via web browser. What does that mean for you? When logged into your Google account, you will be able to use these apps and any documents you have in your drive from any device with internet. The ease of mobility with Google is unmatched and will change the way you do lesson plans, grade homework and collaborate with your colleagues.

Haven't Logged In Yet?

If you haven't logged in for the first time yet now is the time to do it! Follow these three easy steps to get started:

1. Go to Gladewaterisd.com homepage and click "Employee Resources" then "Google Login"
2. Your username is your network login and you have received the temporary password via FirstClass email.
3. You will then be asked to change your password (put in the temporary password in the "current password" area then type in your new password twice to verify). Then click submit.

Previous Google Account?

If you've had a Google account that you signed up with your gladewaterisd.com email there will be a change for you. This **only** will effect people that signed up for a Google account, to use docs or any other apps, and instead of getting a gmail account you tied your gladewaterisd.com address to it. When we move to Google as a district this will override that previous account. If you have any questions, please contact Avon or Melanie at IT.

Transition and Training

Since October, Glenda has been going through Google with teachers at the TLC meetings. We know that learning new programs and software can be a little daunting so we will have training during meetings to help you get settled. We hope that you're as excited as we are about what Google offers and are ready for the change over.

Great Google-y Goodness

Email Space

Email space shouldn't ever be an issue again. Your account will have 30GB for email, keep those pictures and emails!



Google Docs

Easy-to-use cloud based Productivity Suite of Applications where you can create documents and share.



Calendar

Online organizer makes scheduling tasks easy. You can even share your calendar with co-workers, team teachers, the public and more.



Contacts

Create groups and mailing lists just like before but with Google's mobility you can take them all with you.



Chat

Send instant messages, use voice or video too! Google Chat is faster and more immediate than email when the matter is pressing.



Mobility

Thanks to the mobility of Google you check your email anywhere, chat with a co-worker or even see what you have scheduled that day.



Calendar

A quick view of upcoming important dates

February

10
GMS TLC Meeting

12
Google training with Admin

12
WIS TLC Meeting

18
GHS TLC Meeting

21
End of 4th 6 Weeks

24
Technology Lesson Forms due by 4pm.

March

7
Early Release

10 - 14
Spring Break!

18
GPS TLC Meeting

19
BES TLC Meeting

24
GMS TLC Meeting

26
WIS TLC Meeting

Next issue:

Teacher Feature

Our Teacher Feature column is back! Have a teacher in mind or do you want to be featured, email Melanie (patem) and let her know

Tips and Tricks

We had a lot to tell you about Google this time, so our Tips and Tricks will be back for the April newsletter.

Google Update

Google, again?! Yeah, but we're done with most of the technical stuff, with this article we'll let you know how it's working and answer any lingering questions.

Google FAQs

With the transition to Google happening, we've noticed some of the same questions coming from our teachers and staff. To help address those, here's some answers to some frequently asked questions (FAQs):

Q. Will our email address stay the same?

A. You bet! Your email will not change at all, the only thing changing is where you check your email. A simple way of explaining is this, you have a driver's license and a car. You trade in for a new car...but your driver's license number doesn't change. New car, same license...same thing with Google Mail, same email, different program.

Q. Does everyone have/need to login to Google?

A. Yippee! Everyone, faculty and staff, custodians, and bus drivers, has an email. So you will need to log in to Google.

Q. Will all my contacts and emails in FirstClass be gone forever?

A. Negative! We will explain how to transfer your contacts to Google and forward your emails to the account as well. No worries about losing important items from FirstClass, we gotcha covered!

If you have any questions, please ask, odds are you aren't the only one with that question. Any time you change to a new system it can be overwhelming and we're here to make the move as smooth as possible!

TCEA Recap

TCEA was this past week in Austin and along with Glenda and Avon, Michelle Ingram, Librarian, Kevin Clark, ELA Teacher, Sabrina Davis, Ag Teacher all from GHS, and Angela Nelson, Science Teacher at GMS went along for the information. Also in attendance was Dr. J.P. Richardson, one of the few Superintendents there, who saw first-hand the technologies available for our district.

Many new ideas have come back to GISD because of this technology conference. Mrs. Ingram has plans to get "Appy" at the high school with an after-school Appy Hour to show, discuss and implement new apps available for education.

Coach Clark is pretty excited about a free website where you can "input an essay and then without correction (it) shows all run-on sentences, prepositional phrases and even redundant word usage." He's already volunteered to take the spot of someone next year if need be.

Your tech department attendees went to a Google Academy to make sure we make our switch the best it can be. We got some feedback that what we're doing is right for you all and everything we've done on the back-end will make the move painless for you.

We saw some great new tech tools on the floor, including an amazing 3-D printer in action. Let's face it, TCEA is like a candy-shop to us and we cannot wait to show you all the cool tools and sites we've seen.

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"I won't be impressed by technology in the classroom until you figure out how to install Google directly in my brain."

If you have any ideas for articles or anything you'd like to see in future Technology Department newsletters, please email Melanie at patem@gladewaterisd.com. She reads each submission and looks forward to your feedback and suggestions.