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# Instructional Technology News

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## Software in Fayetteville Public Schools

Software programs are valuable tools in education. Some help illustrate a concept in a different way, some help reinforce a lesson, while some help teachers assess and evaluate a student's progress. Software is also important for being productive and communicating. Because appropriate software is a vital part of education, the Fayetteville Public School District is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff have access to quality technology, including software.

A challenge with any software program, however, is making sure that it is compatible with technology already in use. It is also important that any software used in our district support curriculum and standards and meet the needs of the district while being cost-effective. To help address these challenges, before any software is selected and adopted in our district, it is carefully reviewed.

One part of the approval process is performed by a Software Review Committee (SRC). The committee is formed at the beginning of each year and meets in October and March. Led by the K-12 Instructional Technology Coordinator, the committee includes one principal and a certified staff member from each division of our district—elementary, middle, junior high, and high school. A representative from Curriculum, Instruction, Accountability and Assessment (CIAA) is also included.

Though the Software Review Committee does not approve the actual purchase of the software or determine funding, it plays a very important role in the approval of software for our district.

The software adoption process encourages all faculty and staff to consider software resources for supporting building or district curriculum or initiatives. Brandon Craft, PE teacher at Holt and Owl Creek Middle Schools and the middle school representative for the Software Review Committee, sees the teamwork required for software adoption as a strength. "I think the software committee is a great idea," he states. "It is rewarding to hear experienced educators collaborate about new methods of learning." Brandon also enjoys his participation in the committee. "It is a great opportunity to develop ideas for my classroom based on what others are doing around the district."

The software review process occurs twice per year, once in the fall and again the spring. Approved software can be purchased and implemented the semester following adoption. The list of software already approved for use in the Fayetteville Public Schools is available on the [K-12 Instructional Technologies](#) web page (from [www.fayar.net](http://www.fayar.net) select Central Office...Technology...K-12 Instructional Technologies...Documents). Documents involved in the software adoption process are also available on the site.



## Welcome Kim Park, K-12 Instructional Technology Manager

Kimberly Park grew up in Southern California and received her BA in English from San Diego State University. She will complete her MA in Geography from the University of Arkansas in May 2008 with an emphasis in GIS and Remote Sensing. She has over 12 years of experience developing training materials and technical documentation, and providing training on various operating systems, software, hardware, and networking technologies. She has been involved with large scale hardware and software roll-out projects at the VA Medical Center and U.S. Customs Service in San Diego, CA. Her last five years in California were spent as a Systems Administrator for the University of California Santa Barbara, where she worked on the Alexandria Digital Library Project and managed 55 servers of varying architecture for the Library and Map and Imagery Lab. She and her family moved to Fayetteville in June, 2004 when her husband accepted a position with The Nature Conservancy. After moving to Arkansas, Kim worked for the University of Arkansas Graduate School. She provided campus-wide training and support for the PeopleSoft software Student Administration Module and most recently, managed the InfoEd Enterprise database, which housed six modules: grant tracking, human subjects administration, lab animals administration, technology transfer administration, investigator administration and the funding opportunities database. Kim, and her family love their two dogs, enjoy being outside, and very much appreciate the opportunity to live and work in Fayetteville.



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### Technology Spotlight: Interwrite Pad



[www.interwritelearning.com](http://www.interwritelearning.com)

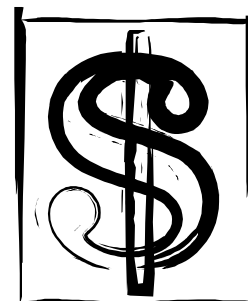
Would you enjoy the freedom to move anywhere in the classroom and still be able to control a presentation or other content on your computer? Would it be nice to interact with your lesson with a device like a pen, with your notes saved on your computer once the lesson is complete? The Interwrite Pad from Interwrite Learning is a technology tool that allows educators to use a portable pad up to 300 feet away from their computers to provide interactive lessons. The pen that works with the pad functions like a mouse, but makes adding notes

and diagrams to a presentation much easier, since working with a pen is often easier than working with a mouse to draw and write. The notes you take are through your computer, not just displayed on the screen, so they can be saved. It is also an easy matter to hand the pad to a student during the lesson. To see if your school has an Interwrite Pad available for use, check with your building Technology Specialist.

## Grant Opportunity

### \* Toshiba America Foundation \*

The mission of Toshiba America Foundation is to promote quality science and mathematics education in U.S. schools. Grants are made for programs and activities that improve teaching and learning in science and mathematics, grades K-12. The Foundation focuses its grant making on inquiry-based projects designed by individual teachers, and small teams of teachers, for use in their own classrooms. (from the Toshiba America Foundation website)



<http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/home/default.jsp>

**Application deadline:** Grants are available in three areas:  
7-12 project proposals of over \$5000 are due February 1 or August 1  
7-12 project proposals of \$5,000 or less are accepted throughout the year  
K-6 project proposals are due October 1 each year

**Application process:** Download and complete an application form; Mail completed application

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## Web Resources



**Teachers First** ([www.teachersfirst.com](http://www.teachersfirst.com)) offers a collection of lessons, units, and web resources. Teachers, parents, and students can find classroom-based resources by subject/grade, keyword, or specific topics. Weekly brain twisters, current events, and professional development sources are also available. Technology tools are available in the What's Hot section.

**Educational Games from NobelPrize.org** ([www.Nobelprize.org/educational\\_games/](http://www.Nobelprize.org/educational_games/)) provides games and simulations, based on Nobel Prize-

awarded achievements, that will teach and inspire you while you're having FUN! Students, teachers and non-professionals of all ages will enjoy testing and building their knowledge in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, peace and economics.

Kathy Schrock's Guide for Educators (<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/schrockguide/>) is a categorized list of sites useful for enhancing curriculum and professional growth. It is updated often to include the best sites for teaching and learning.

*Instructional Technology News* is edited by Laura Wainscott, Technology Integration Specialist at Holt Middle School and Leverett Elementary. For column suggestions, please email [lwainscott@fayar.net](mailto:lwainscott@fayar.net).