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Instructional Technology News

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National School Boards Association Visiting Fayetteville Schools

Each year the National School Boards Association invites its members to visit school districts across the nation and into Canada to see how technology is being introduced and implemented. This school year, Fayetteville Public Schools is honored to be the first district in the state of Arkansas to participate in the NSBA Technology Leadership Network's site visit schedule!

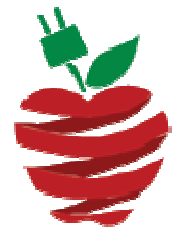
This spring, members of the NSBA will be invited to visit our schools and explore our wonderful city. Visitors will be coming to Fayetteville March 14-16 to see how technology is being used in our district as well as to meet together in breakout sessions.



This site visit is an exciting opportunity for our district, but also requires a great deal of preparation. Our district's coordinator for this event, Patty Plummer, has already spent many hours in preparing for the visit. With her diligence, all of the sessions and activities occurring during the visit are being funded through sponsors.

Several of the activities will involve our schools. Each school will be showcased at a table during the registration and reception time on Sunday evening, March 14. Select schools will also be part of district site tours to be held Monday morning and Tuesday morning.

For more information on the site visit, as well as a complete agenda for the site visit, please visit the district's site visit website at www.fayar.net/nsba. The site can also be reached through a link from the www.fayar.net home page. A full list of vendors sponsoring the various events and a link to the NSBA home page is available from the district's site visit page as well.



Tech Resources Around the District

by Kim Park

This year we have the exciting opportunity to introduce new resources for our teachers, students, and administrators, as well as refresh ourselves on some tools that have been in place. Here is a brief summary of some of these exciting technology resources.

◇ BrainPop/BrainPop Jr.

- BrainPOP and BrainPOP Jr. provide animated, curriculum-based content that supports educators and engages students. Our district has paid for a subscription through 8/2011.
- Please contact your building Technology Integration Specialist for your school login information.
- Brainpop Educator Resources: You'll find more than 650 free teacher resources including innovative lesson plans, video tutorials, graphic organizers, curriculum planners, shared best practices, and more. (Please sign up for an Educator account)
- BrainPop Ideas for Use: <http://www.brainpop.com/educators/ideas/>



◇ netTrekker

- net Trekker is the #1 educational search tool in K-12 schools and is currently used in thousands of schools nationwide. Our state has purchased access to this resources through 8/2011.
- netTrekker individual logins teacher logins are available via your building Technology Integration Specialist.
- netTrekker video tutorial (http://school.nettrekker.com/html/help/DI/customers/profdev_myport.html) provides additional resources



◇ PBWorks Online Classroom

- PBWorks (formerly PBWiki) is an online collaboration tool with many benefits:
 - * Increase Student Engagement (Upload and share classroom information; Keep track of student assignments, progress and participation; Connect teachers, students and parents)
 - * Organize and Coordinate (Easily post scheduling, procedures and special events; Upload files (syllabi, lesson plans, etc.) and search them with a single click; Provide a shared space for classes, student groups, and volunteers)
 - * Security and Access Controls (Give read, write, edit access and ability to comment at your discretion)
 - * Customization (Create a look and feel that matches your school's colors and website)
 - * Hosted and Hassle-Free (No installation needed; setup is a breeze; Access from anywhere inside or outside of your school's network; You automatically get updated with the latest features)
- Some examples of PBWorks sites in our district include
 - * **fayar21c.pbworks.com** (Project 21c wiki)
 - * **fayarliteracyplan.pbworks.com** (Pre-K-12 Literacy Planning Committee)
 - * **fps-web20.pbworks.com** NEW RESOURCE FOR TEACHERS & STUDENTS
This is a resource created for FPS teachers and students. (If you are an FPS teacher and wish to be an editor on this wiki, click the Edit icon to request access. Please use this share with other teachers how you are using Web 2.0 resources in your classroom.)

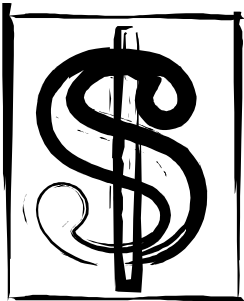
PBWORKS

◇ Moodle

- Moodle is an Open Source Course Management System (CMS), also known as a Learning Management System (LMS) or a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).
- The CIAA and Technology have teamed up to bring you online Professional Development using Moodle.
- Courses are currently under development and we plan to offer the first courses in spring, 2010!
- The initial courses will include a course in Arkansas History developed by Shay Hopper and a course covering the National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers developed by Kimberly Park.
- Other courses will follow as we get up and running on this new platform. Please look for these courses in the Professional Development database.
- Once you register for a Moodle Course in our Professional Development database, Moodle login information and enrollment keys will be sent to you.



Grant Opportunities



* NASA Engineering Design Challenge: Lunar Plant Growth Chamber*

<http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/plantgrowth/home/index.html>

Elementary, middle and high school students design, build and evaluate lunar plant growth chambers -- while engaging in research- and standards-based learning experiences. Students participate in the engineering design process and learn how to conduct a scientific experiment. Educators can order cinnamon basil seeds that have flown in space on the STS-118 space shuttle mission. Students can compare plants grown from both space-flown and Earth-based control seeds, and test the designs of the lunar plant growth chambers. Seeds will be available as long as supplies last.

* Toshiba Science and Math Grants*

<http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/about/HowApply.jsp>

The Toshiba America Foundation gives up to and over \$5,000 to math and science teachers in public and private schools. Funds are given to teachers who engage students in positive and challenging learning experiences. Past successful grantees used the students' natural curiosity and enabled them to frame their own scientific questions. Grants are available for K-6 and for 7-12.

Application deadline: Ongoing

* AIAA Science and Math Classroom Grants*

<http://www.aiaa.org/content.cfm?pageid=216>

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Foundation gives up to \$200 for science and math programs. AIAA Educator Associates who are K-12 teachers and who apply science, mathematics, and technology in their curriculum are welcome to apply. Grants may be used for classroom demonstration kits, classroom science supplies, or other materials that energize science, math, and technology hands-on learning.

Application deadline: Ongoing

Web Resource

Amazon Interactive - (<http://www.eduweb.com/amazon.html>)

Explore the geography of the Ecuadorian Amazon through online games and activities. Learn about the rainforest and the Quichua people who call it home. Discover the ways in which the Quichua live off the land. The site is based upon field research and is designed to illustrate physical and human geography of the Amazon. For an economics lesson, have students use the Ecotourism Simulation Game at the site, where they can plan and manage a locally-controlled ecotourism project.

