Hurry up and get the technology out...the Principal is coming!

Art Skerker October 23, 2007 Teachers have been told that as part of their evaluation they need to demonstrate effective use of technology.

Let's take a look at some of our colleagues who know everything there is to know about technology.

Mary Sunshine (aka "our lady of Powerpoint")

- Dazzle students with your knowledge of animations and transitions...one way to keep them awake is to keep them guessing as to where the next line of text will fly in from
- Let your students know that you have a wonderful lesson prepared...dim the lights making it virtually impossible to take notes and then start you slide show...have at least 75 slides/period

- Don't short change your students...have plenty of text on each page...don't worry about font size...they're young and they have strong eyes
- Don't give them handouts with slides on one side of the page...paying attention and writing real fast, builds character
- Read every slide out loud...students love to hear your voice

Joe Ditto (aka "I never throw anything out")

- Joe is an experienced teacher...
- Once upon a time, Joe considered himself a luddite...and then he discovered the ability to scan
- Mimeos, dittos, typed quizzes, end of chapter questions, etc + scanner -> gorgeous word documents

- When Joe brings his students to the computer lab, he lets them use the internet to explore...
- His students have become very adept at copy and paste...

What does good technology use look like?

- Starts with good instructional practice
- A good lesson has a clearly stated objective
- The use of technology in a lesson needs to add value...
- If a teacher's only response to technology use is because it's motivational, then...

Some examples

- Groups in a 4th grade math class purchasing school supplies from online office supply store
- 6th grade students using a graphic organizer as a prewriting tool (*Inspiration* demos @ registration table)
- Math manipulatives (online)...times tables
- Exploration of gas interactions, periodic table
- John Travoltage, Static electricity, soluble-salts
- Computerized microscopes...lab report with pictures, movies + table, graphs
- QTVR; Ellis Island, Mars



- It's free! (http://earth.google.com/)
- Teachers all around the globe have developed files in all curricular areas...use your search engine to look for ".kmz" or ".kml" + a topic (sample files)
- GoogleLitTrips.org

Factors that Affect the Effective Use of Technology for Teaching & Learning

- Leadership is the key ingredient.
- If you don't know where you're going, you'll end up someplace else.
 - Technology integration is a *s-l-o-w* process.
 - No matter how many computers are available or how much training teachers have had, there are still substantial numbers who are "talking the talk" but not "walking the walk."

- Begin with teaching and learning, not with hardware and software.
- The training-of-trainers model means more than providing a workshop to a few people and expecting them to train their colleagues on what they learned.
- It's a waste of time and energy to provide technology training when teachers don't have the resources, opportunity, and support needed to apply their new knowledge and skills.

Some last minute thoughts...

- Teachers would love to be able to spend time finding sites that add value to classroom instruction, review, etc...
- Why not use some pd time to allow staff to align web based materials with your curriculum...provide students/parents with curriculum (and perhaps a CD) that includes web sites, reinforcement activities, simulations...
- If you are lucky enough to have a computer technology course that all students rotate through, make sure that subject area teachers have input into the course's structure

Cool sites to share with your colleagues

- Calibrated Peer Review http://cpr.molsci.ucla.edu/
- Design a Rollercoaster www.learner.org/exhibits/parkphysics/coaster
- The Why Files http://whyfiles.org/interactives/
- http://phet.colorado.edu/web-pages/simulationsbase.html Great math and science simulations
- Virtual Courseware for Earth Science and Geology http://vcourseware5.calstatela.edu
- Applets; physics, math, science collection, chemistry