TECH BYTES

PBS LearningMedia™

http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/

PBS LearningMedia is a new, free, online media-on-demand service developed for PreK-12 educators featuring interactives, images, video, audio files, and more with lesson plans, background essays, and discussion questions.
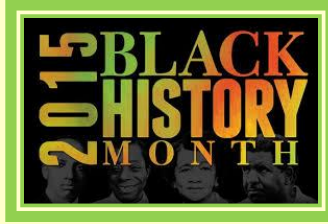
PBS LearningMedia™ is your destination for direct access to thousands of classroom-ready, curriculum-targeted digital resources. PBS LearningMedia builds on the strength of public media and is designed to improve teacher effectiveness and student achievement. Its resources are aligned to Common Core and national standards. You can browse by standards, grade level, subject area, and special collections. You can also favorite and share resources with your class and colleagues.

Teacher Tools

General questions
Content
Lessons
Storyboards
Student Results

Professional Development

LearningMedia offers a suite of free resources that are designed to help educators improve their skills and broaden their expertise. By offering real life scenarios, professional development content allows educators to learn proven techniques and transfer that knowledge to their own classroom environment.

2015 Theme
A Century of Black Life, History, and Culture

Black History Month, or National African American History Month, is an annual celebration of achievements by black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. The event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.

Over the past century, African American life, history, and culture have become major forces in the United States and the world. In 1915, few could have imagined that African Americans in music, art, and literature would become appreciated by the global community. Fewer still could have predicted the prominence achieved by African Americans, as well as other people of African descent, in shaping world politics, war, and diplomacy. Indeed, it was nearly universally believed that Africans and people of African descent had played no role in the unfolding of history and were a threat to American civilization itself. A century later, few can deny the centrality of African Americans in the making of American history.

Black History Portal of Lesson Plans
https://www.teachervision.com/black-history-month/teacher-resources/6602.html

African American History for Teachers
http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/teachers.html

History
http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-month
http://www.history.com/topics/black-history

Smithsonian Education
http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/resource_library/african_american
_resources.html

PBS News Hour
http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/2015/01/black-history-month-resources-for-
the-classroom/

National Education Association
http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/black-history-month.htm

http://kids.usa.gov/teachers/calendar/february/index.shtml

- Black History
- American Heart Month
- Dental Health
- Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention
- Lincoln's Birthday
- Washington's Birthday

Six Authentic Assessment Tools

http://tinyurl.com/mdtalzl

Assessments have become a critical piece to education reform. To prepare students well for college and career means they must deeply learn the material and its application to their lives and future learning. That means using classroom management skills to assess student knowledge authentically and accountably.

This doesn't stop with classroom management activities like quizzes, tests, and memorizing facts. Those approaches may be prescriptive, but they don't measure results in a way that leverages learning.

A well-formed assessment is not always measured by a grade, as is common in summative assessments. Sometimes it derives evidence of learning from anecdotal observation, watching students apply prior learning, working in groups, or participating in classroom discussions.

Thanks to technology, there are lots of fun and effective ways to assess learning in ways that transform your classroom. At least seven ideas are as follows:

- Classroom Management: Polls
- Warmups and Exit Tickets
- Quick Quizzes
- Game Shows
- Virtual Wall
- Brainstorm
- Differentiation

Details and resources for each idea can be found at http://tinyurl.com/mdtalzl

Adopt a Classroom

Partner with donors and get classroom resources you need. 100% of donor contributions go directly to your classroom, fueling the aspirations of all your students.

http://www.adoptaclassroom.org/register/

http://www.boomwriter.com/projectwriter

ProjectWriter is a new web tool that lets teachers design projects step-by-step. Users start off by naming their project and adding assignments for students to complete, such as answering a question by submitting a piece of writing. As soon as they complete the task you can view their work and offer feedback. Students can then review the work of their peers anonymously.

It's a great tool for conducting group nonfiction writing projects for history/social studies, science, technical subjects, or English language arts. ProjectWriter gives teachers the opportunity to break down units of study into smaller sections. This lets students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the key concepts and terms being taught. ProjectWriter also offers built-in vocabulary tools and teacher-created student accounts.
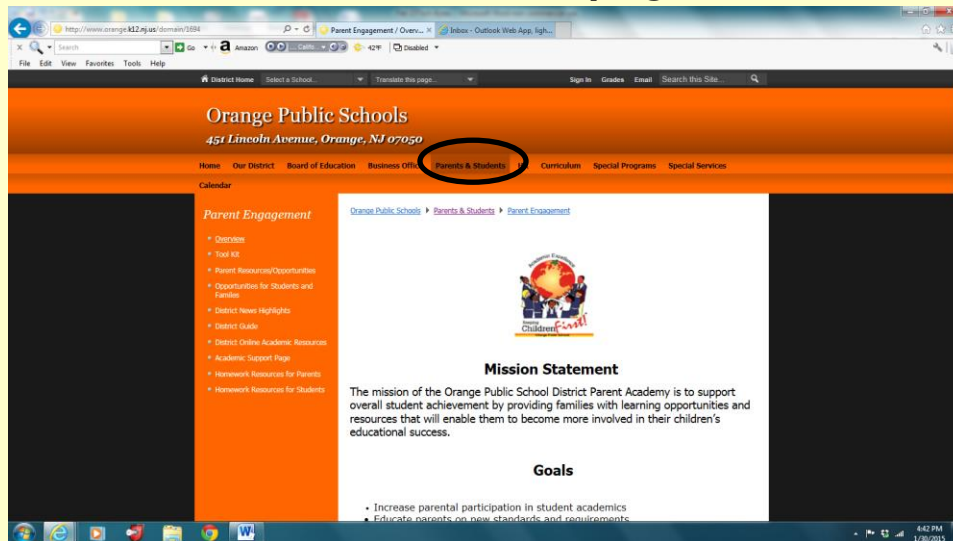
ASCD Common Core Webinar Series

http://www.ascd.org/professional-development/webinars/common-core-webinars.aspx#archived

Parent and Student Channel on the District Webpage

http://www.orange.k12.nj.us/domain/1694

Khan Academy

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id469863705?mt=8

Khan Academy has launched a free new iPad app featuring interactive exercises, handwriting recognition, and more.

Features of the app include the following:

More than 150,000 interactive exercises aligned to the Common Core featuring instant feedback and step-by-step hints.

Reverse Image Search in Google Chrome

If you see an image in your **Google Chrome** browser that you want to find more information about (source, websites, etc.), right-click on the picture and select the "Search Google for this image" option in the menu.

Snap Arrange Windows on your Desktop

Sometimes you want to work on/view more than one document on your screen at the same time. You can do this by using the snap keyboard shortcuts to arrange windows side-by-side.

To snap your active window to the side of your desktop using keyboard keys, press the following:
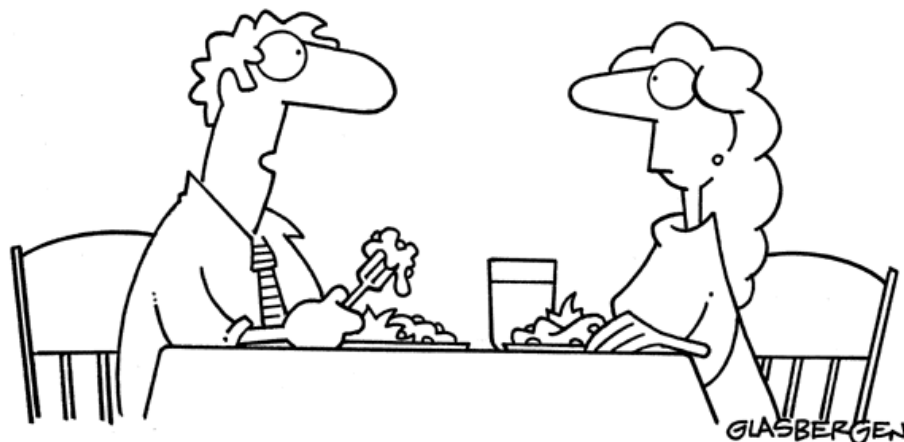
- Windows logo key -Picture of Windows logo key+Left Arrow to snap to the Left side of the screen;
- Windows logo key- Picture of Windows logo key+Right Arrow to snap to the Right side of the screen;
- Windows logo key- Picture of Windows logo key+Up Arrow to return to full screen;
- Windows logo key -Picture of Windows logo key+Down Arrow to minimize.

TECHNOLOGY HUMOR

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"Yesterday I changed everyone's password to 'password'. I sent it to everyone in a memo, put it on a big sign on the wall and printed it on all of the coffee cups. Guess how many people called me this morning because they forgot the password."

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"Today my computer joined a support group for office machines who have to cope with idiots."