TECH BYTES

SUMMER EXPLORATION

TECH&LEARNING eNews

Guest author Patricia Brown, Technology Integration Coach at Old Bonhomme Elementary School in Saint Louis, MO: "Summer break:" two words that bring smiles to both teachers and students. For those in education, summer is a time for relaxation, reflection, and new learning. Whether you are attending a conference or creating your own personalized learning experience, utilizing this "break" to explore new tools and strategies that help expand your teaching toolbox can be very rewarding. Not sure where to start? Here are a few tips. Try Connecting: Are you a connected educator? How do you develop relationships with other educators, besides the ones in your school? How do you measure how effectively you have been integrating technology into your classroom? Are you using Twitter, Voxer, Skype, Google Hangouts, Facebook, or other social media tools to expand your personal learning network? The connections you make through social media lead you to a wealth of knowledge that is not made possible without it. If you are more comfortable connecting with people in person, attending conferences, edcamps, and playdates are great ways to make lifelong friends, and connections in your local community. As educators, we must stay current by finding innovative ways to engage students. Don't let the whole summer go by without exploring ways to improve the quality of your instructional practices, by refilling your learning toolbox!

Equip your students with the knowledge and skills to think critically, behave safely, and participate responsibly online and with mobile devices. Discover the best edtech tools, learn best practices for teaching with technology, and connect with expert educators to transform classrooms.

•   Find research-based tools to teach students how to embrace the power of technology in school and in life.

•   Discover the best edtech tools, learn best practices for teaching with technology, and connect with expert educators to transform classrooms.

•   Watch our latest video for tips and ideas on how to get the most out of video in the classroom.

•   Expand your network and build knowledge of best practices with these rich PD websites and communities.

•   Check out our Digital Glossary for a window into the world of kids' digital lingo.

•   Get kids and families talking about digital citizenship with our newest resource: take-home worksheets aligned to our Digital Citizenship curriculum.

•   Use this important resource to teach teens about the impact sexting can have on their future.

30 GOALS CHALLENGE

http://www.30goals.com/

Over 10,000 teachers have joined The 30 Goals Challenge for Teachers since 2010. New to The 30 Goals Challenge? Each year, teachers worldwide aim to accomplish 1 to 30 goals that transform their teaching. Join the movement by accomplishing any goal from any of the cycles then letting us know through a blog reflection or status update on our Facebook community or on Twitter,@30GoalsEdu . At our official site, 30Goals.com, find all the goals, participant reflections, badges, and get your copy of The 30 Goals for Teachers: Small Steps to Transform Your Classroom workbook.

Shelly Terrell's 30 Goals

1. Envision your greatness
2. Create your teaching Manifesto
3. Cultivate relationships
4. Partner with parents
5. Integrate Tech effectively
6. Show them how to navigate the web intelligently
7. Help them reflect on their online behavior
8. Reflect through a blog
9. Build a Teacher Survivor kit
10. Send them on a learner mission
11. Establish a web presence
12. Give students reign
13. Join an online educator community & develop a P.L.N.
14. Avoid burnout
15. Send a future message
16. Dare them
17. Re-evaluate value
18. Invite them in
19. Rethink student behavior & classroom management
20. Spread your message
21. Make it fun
22. Make a global connection
23. Plant a seed of belief
24. Change your environment
25. Collaborate with colleagues
26. Encourage play
27. Shake things up
28. Show your appreciation
29. Manifest an idea
30. Celebrate your achievements!

@sylviaduckworth

Synergyse is joining the Google Apps team! This means the in app training will be available to all Google users at no cost.

We intend to make the product available as an integral part of the Google Apps offering later this year. In the meantime, existing customers will continue to have access, and new customers will be able to download the Chrome extension for free while the integration is underway.

Innovative educators understand the power of resources like Synergyse. It puts an on-demand tutor at every user's fingertips. It also frees up the time of educators to move beyond how to use and application.

Educators will also love the analytics and reporting tools to track and measure usage and progress. They can use these reports to count towards their own professional learning requirements.

Chrome Extension
https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/synergyse-training-for-go/idkloemkmldbemijiamdiolojbffnjlh

Free Google Apps Training for All with @Synergyse (Article)
http://www.techlearning.com/blogentry/10734

PD Modules

21Things4Teachers helps educators make connections between technology tools and best practice instructional strategies. It provides a chance for you to collaborate with fellow teachers in a cohort or as an individual to learn more about 21st century technology skills in a supportive environment with a highly skilled instructor.

These modules should take 10 hours to complete. They are self-contained modules that can be used for customized professional development by schools or educational service agencies.

The modules include: Learning Objectives, Activities with Resources, and an Assignment

eSCHOOL NEWS
Daily Tech News & Innovation

3 Ways to Revamp Lessons for the Interactive Learner

Today's students are a uniquely interactive group. Most of the 80 million Americans who are part of the millennial generation—a group that comprises the lion's share of today's student population—can't remember a time when they didn't have instant access to the internet. Most of them grew up playing video games, and ever since they can remember, they've been in constant contact with friends via social media platforms and text messages. A growing number of today's instructors also fall into this group.

Educators who want to reach students who favor interactive communication know that integrating digital tools into their lesson plans can be an effective strategy, and many have incorporated technology tools into the classroom in one way or another. But to make a real difference, educators have to integrate technology in a meaningful way. It's not sufficient to just use social media platforms as an alternate communication venue or post schedules on a class Facebook page

So how can educators use technology in a more meaningful way?

Gamify Lessons
Teachers can "gamify" lessons by integrating competition into classroom presentations in a number of ways.

Turn Lectures Into a 2-way Conversation
Students who are used to highly interactive communication often have difficulty adjusting to traditional classroom lectures, where they are expected to silently take notes while the instructor speaks. Educators who are looking for new ways to engage students can turn top-down lectures into two-way conversations with technology.

Use Peer Instruction to Enhance the Learning Experience
Crowdsourced learning is an excellent strategy for students who thrive in interactive settings. It allows students to actively participate in the learning process, communicating with fellow students to explore solutions and formulate responses.

Read complete article for resources and ideas to use to implement these strategies.
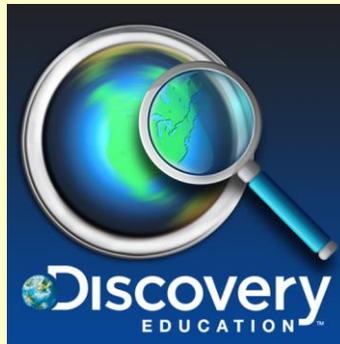
https://teachers.discoveryeducation.com/strategies-resources/
Sign in and select the Professional Learning Channel

Teacher approved, research-based professional development that supports educators in utilizing digital resources and proven instructional practices to enhance student learning.

Are you looking for new and creative ways to integrate digital media into your curriculum? Use the resources featured here to dive deeper into the intentional and effective integration of Discovery Education's digital resources.

Just the thing you need for your weekly lesson planning, Lively Lessons highlight content from Discovery Education and provide lesson ideas for ways to use that content in a variety of classroom settings.

Explore creative, research-based instructional strategies, presented by teachers for teachers. These simple instructional strategies incorporate digital media in

meaningful, effective, and practical ways. Try a Strategy and leave a comment to tell your peers about it.

Take your students beyond the classroom walls and into some of the world's most iconic locations for rich and immersive learning experiences — no permission slips required, Tour the National Archives, see how an egg farm works, explore NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, or hear from the President of the United States. Discovery Education Virtual Field Trips are fun, educational, and free!

http://askatechteacher.com/

Ask a Tech Teacher is a group of technology teachers who provide free materials, advice, lesson plans, pedagogic conversation, website reviews, and more to all who drop by our blog. The free newsletters and website articles help thousands of teachers, homeschoolers, and those serious about finding the best way to maneuver the minefields of technology in education.

Microsoft Innovative Educator
Microsoft Professional Learning

https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/education/educators/miee/default.aspx

At Microsoft, we believe in the power of the educator and the school leader, and the impact they have when they are brought together and recognized for their achievements.

The Microsoft Innovative Educator (MIE) Expert program is an exclusive program created to recognize global educator visionaries who are using technology to pave the way for their peers for better learning and student outcomes.
MIE Experts work closely with Microsoft to lead innovation in education. They advocate and share their thoughts on the effective use of technology in education with peers and policy makers. They provide insight for Microsoft on new products and tools for education, and they exchange best practices as they work together to promote innovation in teaching and learning.

Self-nominations for 2016-2017 are now open!
https://profile.microsoft.com/RegSysProfileCenter/wizardnp.aspx?wizid=7ffbe1c1-91dd-4d3a-bd60-1ad2682f3b02&lcid=1033

https://www.coursera.org/

Coursera provides universal access to the world's best education, partnering with top universities and organizations to offer courses online. Learn on your own schedule Watch short video lectures, take interactive quizzes, complete peer graded assessments, and connect with fellow learners and instructors. Finish your course and receive formal recognition for your accomplishment with an optional Course Certificate.

SAMRModel
By: Dr. Ruben Puentedura

Use the SAMR Model to Spearhead Technology in Your Classroom

This is a question I get often from teachers: Technology is always an extra layer of work in my classroom. How can I blend it into what I already do without taking time I don't have? When I first addressed this issue fifteen years ago, it was all about replacing traditional classroom tools with one on a computer. For example, book reports were typed on the computer instead of handwritten, or math facts were practiced with a math game instead of flash cards. But that quickly became cumbersome.

Teachers didn't know how to use the digital tools and there was never enough training to untip that balance. At the end of the day, paper-and-pencil was easier, faster, and perfectly understood. Soon, even the most stalwart tech-infused teachers discovered it was just as effective to use traditional tools and pull out the tech stuff for special occasions.

What happened? How did such a good idea go so wrong? The problem was four-fold:

- students didn't have the technology foundation to smoothly incorporate digital tools into projects. Too often, the effort to provide evidence of learning suffered as students (and teachers) became mired in efforts to get the technology to work. Where is the tool? How do you do **? Why is the program not working?
- teachers didn't have training in the tools. Even schools that made herculean efforts to train teachers in technology found themselves flailing. Even teachers who understood the tool would struggle with the inadequate infrastructure, the undependability of the technology itself, and the non-intuitive nature of so many of the programs they wanted to use. As a result, they used tools they understood rather than those best-suited for the project and learning.
- projects always–really, always–took longer using technology than the traditional low-tech approach.
- school infrastructure often struggled to support the exciting plans that tech-savvy teachers wanted to try. Computers froze or the network became over-burdened or the internet went down just as students required them the most.

The money required to fix these problems was measured in the thousands of dollars–tens of thousands. Too many schools just didn't have that budget.

What many had hoped would be a transformative tool, allowing educators to teach differentiated lessons, cover more material, and deliver in more authentic ways, became a daily struggle. Where technology integration was supposed to look like A (below), instead it became B:

A

B

If this sounds like you, keep reading. I'm going to show you how to fix it.

Continue reading…….. http://askatechteacher.com/2016/05/25/use-the-samr-model-to-spearhead-technology-in-your-classroom/

Plan to incorporate your new learning into a lesson you will be teaching during September.

High-Quality OER Collections

CK-12 Foundation
K-12 Foundation is a nonprofit organization that offers free, standards-aligned content in STEM subjects, including digital textbooks and simulations.

The content reportedly works across all platforms and devices, including iPads, Chromebooks and Android tablets. CK-12 also offers tools to help teachers flip their classroom by creating groups, assigning content and monitoring achievement through a teacher dashboard.

Curriki
Curriki has 80,000-plus free learning resources that have been vetted by educators.

Gooru
This open database of learning materials aims to help personalize instruction. Educators can browse through thousands of collections made by teachers or search from among 16 million total resources; remix collections and customize content to meet their students' needs; share collections with students; and measure students' engagement and progress.

Knovation Content Collection
Knovation has built a library containing more than 360,000 vetted, standards-aligned open resources that it uses to power its netTrekker kid-safe search engine and learning engagement system.

OER Commons
OER Commons is a freely accessible online library that allows teachers to find, create and share open educational resources.

OpenEd
Created in 2012 by a team of parents and teachers, OpenEd contains a searchable catalog of more than a million teacher-curated, standards-aligned resources.
While the resources can be used with any learning management system, OpenEd also offers its own free LMS, allowing teachers who sign up for a free account to create playlists of materials that can be shared with students, parents or colleagues and to track and analyze student progress.

PowerMyLearning
PowerMyLearning is a free online platform for K-12 students, teachers, and parents to find digital content that supports the Common Core standards. Creating a PowerMyLearning account gives users free access to thousands of games, interactive simulations, virtual labs, videos and other activities tagged by subject, grade level and Common Core standard, as well as a "playlist" feature, lesson plans and usage reports.

Let's Talk About Habits of Mind
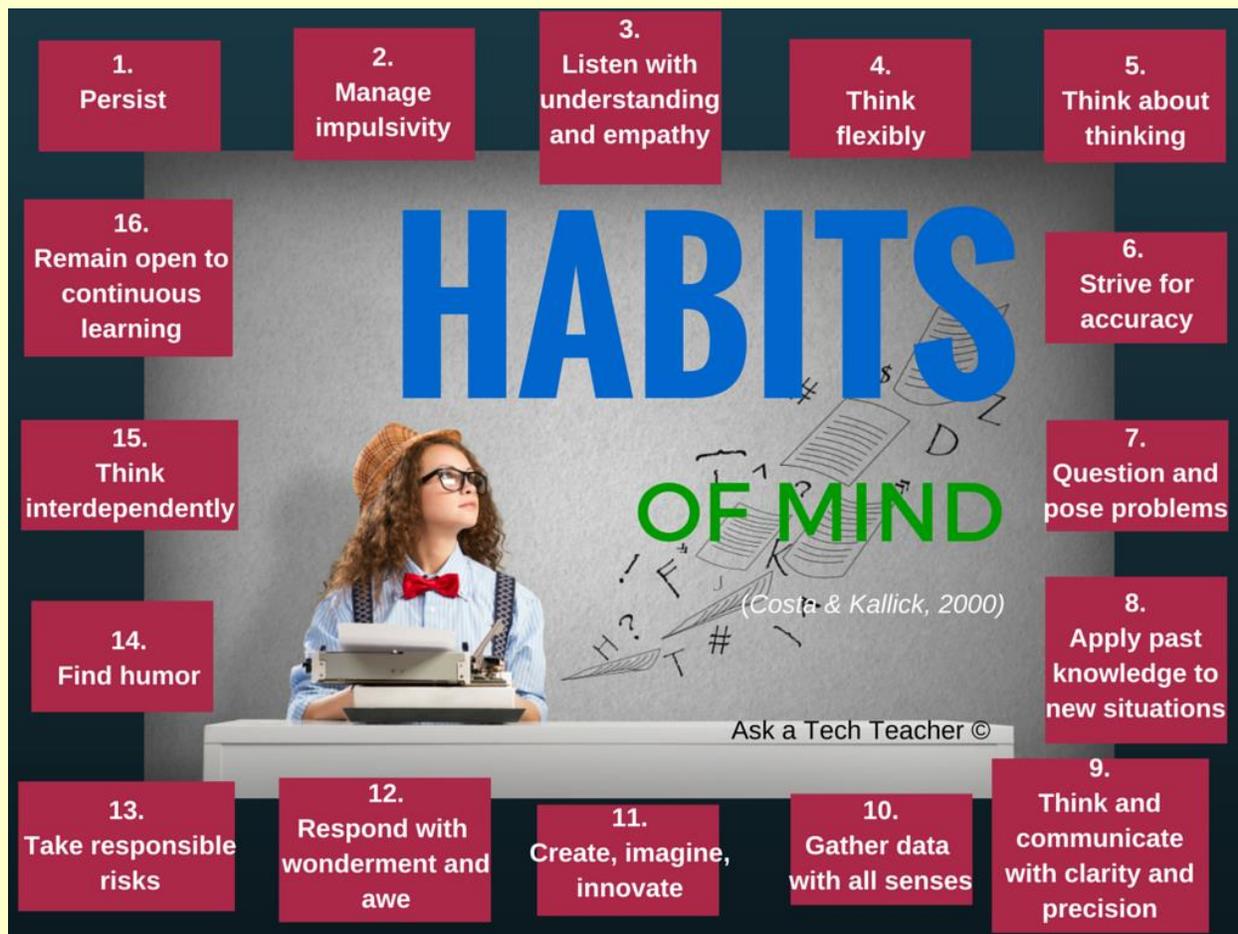
In the face of mounting evidence, education experts accepted a prescriptive fact: student success is not measured by milestones like 'took a foreign language in fifth grade' or 'passed Algebra in high school' but by how s/he thinks. One curated list of cerebral skills that has become an education buzz word is Arthur L. Costa and Bena Kallick's list of sixteen what they call Habits of Mind (Copyright ©2000):

Persisting
Managing impulsivity
Listening with Understanding and Empathy
Thinking Flexibly
Thinking about Thinking

Striving for Accuracy
Questioning and Posing Problems
Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations
Thinking and Communicating with Clarity and Precision
Gathering Data through All Senses
Creating, Imagining, Innovating
Responding with Wonderment and Awe
Taking Responsible Risks
Finding Humor
Thinking Interdependently
Remaining Open to Continuous Learning
Together, these promote strategic reasoning, insightfulness, perseverance, creativity and craftsmanship.

But they're not new. They share the same goals with at least three other widely-used education systems: 1) Common Core (as close as America gets to national standards), 2) the International Baccalaureate (IB) program (a well-regarded international curriculum, much more popular outside the US than within), and 3) good ol' common sense. Below, I've listed each Habit of Mind with a brief explanation of what that means (in italics). I then point out connections to Common Core, the IB Program, and the common sense your grandma shared with you. The result is a compelling argument that education is less a data download and more a fitness program for our brains.

http://askatechteacher.com/2015/06/24/lets-talk-about-habits-of-mind/

http://hom.3csn.org/hom-3csn/what-are-habits-of-mind/

https://edutrainingcenter.withgoogle.com/certification_level1

If you're an educator who knows how to use Google tools in the classroom, this certification proves your proficiency. Find out what it takes to get certified. Or, if you're ready, take the certification exam now.

Simple K12®
powered by InfoSource, Inc.

Make sure you have your Simple K12 log in before you leave for the summer. Spend time exploring a topic you have been interested but did not had time to learn. Don't forget that you receive PD hours for webinars attended.

The Reflective Administrator: Optimize your Summer!

A Taxonomy of Reflection

Creating: What should I do next?

Evaluating: How well did I do?

Analyzing: Do I see any patterns in what I did?

Applying: Where could I use this again?

Understanding: What was important about it?

Remembering: What did I do?

Model developed by Peter Pappas
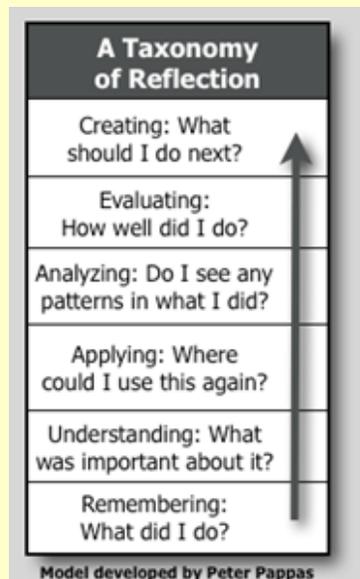
Reflection is defined as giving serious thought or consideration. The process of reflection can be challenging, but the results will help you improve on your teaching and learning practices, as transformational leaders. Self- assessment is clouded by

the need to meet the demands from various stakeholders. As the end of the school year approaches, prepare to REFLECT!

Read

How many professional books, magazines, or digital books do you have stacked on your nightstand waiting to be consumed

Review of Data

Summer is the time to review a year's worth of academic data.

Inspect Your School for Safety

Wander the building and walk the perimeter of the building, ensuring that the building is a safe place for situations that may arise.

Hone Your Communications System

Summer is the time to create a principals web site, your parent email list procedure, and your regular communication with the staff.

Reconnect with Your Administrative Team

Reach out to your team and have lunch with them to discuss the issues you didn't have time to chat about during the school year.

Vacation- Get-a-way!

Vacation doesn't just mean working from home or even taking day trips. Reconnect with the family that supports your crazy schedule for 10 months during the year.

http://connectedprincipals.com/archives/11678

17 Books for Teachers' Summer Reading Lists

Anyone who says teachers have summers off has probably never met a teacher. While their work year is technically September to June (or August to May in the warmer states—I'm looking at you, Arizona), teachers' brains don't take a summer vacation. Summers are filled with lesson plan prep, curriculum designing, professional development seminars, and reading, reading, reading.

The summer months are prime real estate to take advantage of "free time" and catch up on reading to inform your practice and lighten your spirits overall. Below are the top 17 books for our teacher summer reading list, organized by SPF (summer professional fun!) level. We avoid the tanning oils (i.e., Chicken Soup for the Soul),

but the following books range from pedagogy and poetry to special education and science fiction.

Topic: Pedagogy and Professional Development
SPF: Zinc Oxide
These 8 books have you covered when it comes to planning for next year's curriculum, lesson planning, and classroom management.

Youth, Education, and The Role of Society: Rethinking Learning in the High School Years by Robert Halpern
Improbable Scholars: The Rebirth of a Great American School System and a Strategy for America's Schools by David L. Kirp
Make Space: How to Set the Stage for Creative Collaboration by Scott Doorley and Scott Witthoft
See Me After Class: Advice for Teachers by Teachers by Roxanna Elden
Teaching as Leadership: The Highly Effective Teacher's Guide to Closing the Achievement Gap by Steven Farr
Real Talk for Real Teachers: Advice for Teachers from Rookies to Veterans by Rafe Esquith
The Principal 50: Critical Leadership Questions for Inspiring Schoolwide Excellence by Baruti K. Kafele
Teaching for the Two-Sided Mind by Linda Williams

Topic: Personal Wellness
SPF: 45
While these books aren't targeted toward your professional development in the classroom, they focus on leadership, writing skills, and work/life balance — all necessary skills to succeed and survive in the classroom.

Make it Stick: The Science of Successful Learning by Peter C. Brown, Henry L. Roediger III, and Mark A Daniel
7 Habits of Highly Effective People: Powerful Lessons in Personal Change by Stephen R. Covey
Bird by Bird: Instructions on Writing and Life by Annie Lamott
The Happiness Project by Gretchen Rubin

Topic: Beach Reads
SPF: 15
Take a brain break with these beachside reads. These won't necessarily help inform your professional, personal, or academic knowledge, but taking time out for yourself to indulge in some lighter reading will help you enjoy your summer, and give your brain a bit of relaxation before September prep.

The Signature of All Things by Elizabeth Gilbert
The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay by Michael Chabon
Yes Please by Amy Poehler
Life, Animated: A Story of Sidekicks, Heroes, and Autism by Ron Suskind
White Teeth by Zadie Smith

Additional Lists
ASCD
http://www.ascd.org/professional-development/summer-reading-list.aspx
Teacher Vision
https://www.teachervision.com/reading/gallery/65670.html?page=1

HAVE AN AWESOME SUMMER ….
LEARNING AND RENEWING

Please use Padlet link to share your new learning with the Technology Team. We would love to learn how you will apply your new learning in your classroom or at our school.

https://padlet.com/moseslin/SETechBytes