



# TECH BYTES



Orange Board of Education

June/Summer 2017

## June is National Internet Safety Month



### Online Child Safety during Summer Vacation

ConnectSafely's Summertime Tips for Online Safety and Security  
<http://tinyurl.com/lwnyf9q>

For many kids, summer vacation has long been associated with hanging out with friends and playing games. That is still true. Now, however, an increasing amount of that free time is facilitated by computers and mobile devices – social networking sites and apps allow young people to stay in close touch with classmates and family even from afar. But some thought needs to be given to ensuring that Internet-based activities remain safe and secure and that young people maintain control over who has access to their personal information.

Internet Safety Month offers the unique opportunity to remind kids with more free time, families gearing up for getaways and brides-to-be to STOP.THINK.CONNECT. and stay safer and more secure online. The kick-off to summer brings increased Internet and mobile device use.

Summer vacation is here and time away from school could mean plenty of extra time online for your kids - a lot of it happening when you're not around to supervise. And while the Internet can be a great source of fun and social interaction for your kids, it can also be a dangerous place. And while it feels like home is the safest place for your kids - the more time they spend online the more they could potentially be exposed to inappropriate content (pornography, hate, violence, etc.), cyberbullying, and other online dangers.

## SUMMER INTERNET TIPS

<https://www.newshosting.com/blog/summer-internet-tips/>

<http://content.mobicip.com/content/10-cyber-safety-tips-summer>

<http://puresight.com/Useful-tools/online-child-safety-during-summer-vacation.html>

<http://time.com/3940304/kids-safe-online-safety/>



### Create an End of the Year Classroom eBook Using Google Slide

Did you know that Google Slides can be used for much more than just presentations? Google Slides is one of the most flexible learning tools in the Google Apps suite. Google Slides allows you to manipulate and edit images in ways that you cannot in Google Docs. With Slides, you can add backgrounds, borders, and layer text boxes, graphics, and shapes. If you have ever been frustrated with trying to get an image in the exact spot you want in Google Docs, you may want to try it in Google Slides. Since you can easily convert your slides to PDF, the most universally accepted file format, your eBook can be read on practically any device.

#### How to create an eBook in Google Slides

<http://www.shakeuplearning.com/blog/how-to-create-an-ebook-with-google-slides/>

# Ten Things Everyone Should Know about K-12 Students' Digital Learning, 2017

## Students Speak Up on Technology & Learning

### #1 The next step: self-directed mobile learning

2x as many students w/ Chromebooks now vs. 2014.

Students in grades 6-12 are using mobile devices to self-direct learning: doing research on the Internet (84%) looking up class info (59%), creating shareable docs (54%), emailing teachers questions (47%), setting due date reminders (43%) and taking notes (40%).

### #2 Changing rules re: tech at school

In 2011, 50% of students said they couldn't access social media at school. Today, only 38% have the same complaint.

In 2011, 32% of students said school Internet was too slow; 53% say that is a big problem now.

No change here: 42% of students say too many rules at school limit tech use.

### #3 A new generational divide – among students

37% of students in grades 6-8 say they are playing online or digital games for learning purposes at least weekly; only 1/4 of high school students say the same.

Top benefit of learning games: "They challenge me to think more than other class activities!"

### #4 Learning online sounds great!

Middle school students are very interested in online learning. Top wish list for online classes: study skills (58%), art appreciation (58%), world languages (56%), career tech ed (51%) and computer science (47%).

### #5 Getting the news – the student way

Most often: Use a mobile app to get news alerts. Least often: Read a print news story.

Action needed: only 41% of students say they know how to detect bias in what they read online or evaluate information accuracy.

### #6 All-purpose study guide: The Internet

79% of high school students use the Internet at least once a week to support homework and school assignments (48% use it daily)...even though only 29% of high school teachers are assigning Internet homework weekly.

Where are students going online? At home (79%), campus before/after hours (50%), fast food or coffee shop (28%) and public library (20%).

### #7 Student-teacher conference

2/3rds of students say teachers should just talk to them in class; only 28% said a text is best. Hurrah for real-time communications!

### #8 Coding for the future

Majority of students are interested in coding, but boys lead the pack on interest. 66% of boys and 58% of girls in grades 3-8 want to learn to code. By high school only 50% of girls say the same!

13% of elementary students say they are already coding.

### #9 Goodbye, summer camp! Hello, online video!

More than 1/3 of students say they want to learn about future jobs and careers via online courses, digital games, online videos and social media.

Decreasing in interest: Summer camps, after school programs and student competitions.

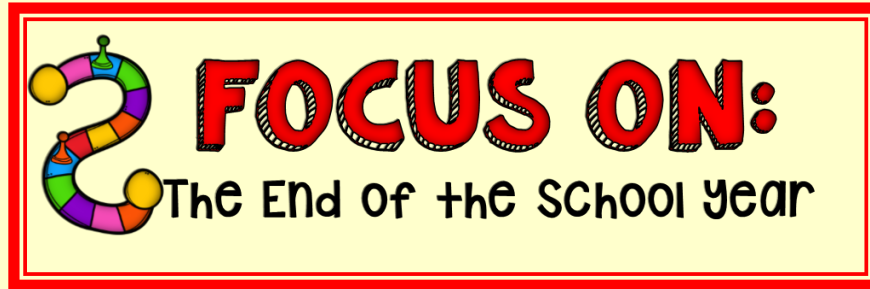
### #10 Technology x learning = my future

Students say...

- learning how to use technology is important for my future (51%).
- learning using technology results in college and career ready skills like creativity (46%), collaboration (48%) and problem solving (41%).
- they use technology more often for learning outside of school than in school (56%).

Source: Speak Up Research Project for Digital Learning, 2016 Findings - the results of the authentic, unfiltered views of 435,510 K-12 students from around the world. Speak Up is an annual research initiative of Project Tomorrow, a global nonprofit organization. Learn more about Speak Up and other research findings from Project Tomorrow at [tomorrow.org](http://tomorrow.org).





## End of the Year Activiites

The month of June marks the end of the school year and the preparation for first days of summer. This is a great time to reflect on each individual student regarding their social and academic growth over the past year. Sort out exactly how each and every student played a role in your learning community, and how every student's personal contributions have been valuable. As an educator, take the time to reflect on your professional growth in all that you wanted to achieve. Begin to set new goals for the coming school year as you wrap up the current one. Below are some suggested lessons and activities to help with reflection on student and professional growth.

Education World:

Team Problem-Solving Fun (Grades 3-12): Students work cooperatively to solve a variety of puzzling activities. [http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/05/lp345-01.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/05/lp345-01.shtml)

Teacher Report Card(Grades 3-12): Students create a "teacher report card." Then they grade the teacher. [http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/05/lp345-03.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/05/lp345-03.shtml)

Teacher Vision

Sensory Writing from an Object's Perspective: If I Were a Pair of Flip Flops... (Grades 3-7): This creative writing assignment challenges students to write from the perspective of an inanimate object. They will use their imagination and their five senses to write a paragraph describing the first day of summer vacation from the perspective of their best friend's flip flops. This is a fun end-of-year writing activity or summer writing prompt. <https://www.teachervision.com/creative-writing/sensory-writing-objects-perspective-if-i-were-pair-flip-flops>

Super Teacher Worksheets:

Summer Fun! Creative Writing (Grades 2-4): This activity prompts students to think

about their plans for the summer. <https://www.superteacherworksheets.com/end-of-year/asummer-fun.pdf?up=1466611200>

## Lessons by Teachers for Teachers

Students write a letter to their next teacher in this end-of-year activity (Grades 1-4): Students write a letter to their future teacher, and this allows the upcoming teacher to see writing styles, abilities and opens a “personal” connection to the student.

<http://lessonplanspage.com/laendofyearlettertomynewteacheridea14-htm/>

Ah, the end of the year. Choose a goal to make the last month of school an effective one No more time? The last days of school may be upon us and your students may already be chanting the traditional end-of-school cheer, but that doesn't mean that you have to succumb to the temptation to start summer early. Blow your students away with some cool end-of-year activities that combine fun and learning.

## Resources

Top 12 Effective End of the Year Activities

<http://www.teachhub.com/top-12-effective-end-year-activities>

Favorite End-of-Year Activities

[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_curr/profdev/profdev136.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/profdev/profdev136.shtml)

Make End of the Year Learning Meaningful

<https://www.middleweb.com/29647/make-end-of-year-learning-meaningful-fun/>

## 30 Amazing End of the Year Award Ideas

<https://www.teachercreated.com/blog/2015/04/30-amazing-end-of-the-year-award-ideas/>

You're in the home stretch and there's a lot to do in the classroom to wrap up the end of another amazing school year. Don't forget to celebrate all the achievements your students have made throughout the year. Present each student with a Certificate of Achievement Award during a classroom award ceremony. To make your students feel extra special, you could present each student with an individualized award that celebrates their best character trait, or best skill. Here are 30 award ideas for a memorable end of the school year award ceremony.

Most Spirited Award	Good Friend Award
Peacemaker Award	Sunshine Award
Super Speller Award	Helping Hand Award
Technology Whiz Award	Best Manners Awards
Super Scientist Award	Sportsmanship Award
Good Reader Award	Mother Earth Award
Aspiring Author Award	Problem-Solver Award
Perfect Penmanship Award	Most Creative Award
Amazing Artist Award	Good Friend Award
Master of Math Award	Organization King/Queen Award
Queen/King of Crafts Award	Clean Up King/Queen Award
Music Master Award	Perfect Attendance Award

Good Leader Award Classroom Comedian Award Fashionista Award	Humanitarian Award Fashionista Award Big Helper Award
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## End of the School Year Bulletin Boards

With the end of the school year just weeks away, it's time to start the final bulletin boards of the year. We've rounded up some of the best ideas for end of the year bulletin boards: from memories captures to simple countdowns: there's tons of ideas to inspire you.

<http://www.theclassroomcreative.com/2013/04/end-of-the-school-year-bulletin-boards/>



### Tips for a Stress Free Closeout

<http://www.coolcatteacher.com/stress-free-plan-closing-classroom/>

Angela Watson talks about the best way\* to close down your classroom at the end of the school year:

- ✓ Why taking things down too soon can cause behavior problems
- ✓ How to have students help without chaos
- ✓ A simple system for getting the work done
- ✓ Ending the school year with less stress
- ✓ What you should have students do

## FINDING YOUR BEAUTIFUL MOMENT THE LAST WEEK OF SCHOOL

<http://www.coolcatteacher.com/finding-your-beautiful-moment-the-last-week-of-school/>

**There is only one chance to finish well.**



### Educator's Calendar 2016-2017

Use this calendar to enhance your lessons with a variety of seasonal resources.

<http://www.help-teaching.com/edu-resources/Educators-Calendar-June-2017-from-HelpTeaching.pdf>



## AI-Powered Digital Tutor App SOCRATIC Goes World Wide



Socratic is a powerful digital tutor app that until recently had only been available on the iOS platform, in English. Now they've launched their Android app version, and the product is now available in 5 new languages: Spanish, Portuguese, Indonesian, German and French.

Using Socratic on a smart phone, a student takes a picture of a question. Students can also enter questions directly into the interface. Then Socratic uses Artificial Intelligence to determine what concepts are required to answer it. Next, it shows the student high-quality mobile-native content created by a community of educators. This content is designed to make learning easier than most textbooks and websites, and it is supplemented with videos, definitions, and the best results from the web.



<https://kids.usa.gov/teachers/calendar/june/index.shtml>

# FREE WEBINAR



## June 2017 Webinar

**“Oh, the Places They’ll Go”:  
Using Technology to Enhance Students’  
Summer Reading Experiences**

Thursday, June 1, 2017 @ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm EDT

Register:

<https://www.anymeeting.com/AccountManager/RegEv.aspx?PIID=ED50D88988463C>

Do you worry about your students retaining their essential reading skills over the summer? Avoid the summer slide by creating engaging summer assignments for your students. Join this edWebinar to learn how technology can enhance your summer reading program. During this live, interactive event, Sarah Rich, an elementary teacher, trained blended learning expert, and lead teacher champion at Squiggle Park, will share:

- Ways to prepare and excite your students about reading prior to summer
- Tools and creative examples of how to make your students summer reading come alive
- Creative ways to write letters to your favorite authors or favorite character
- Online resources to help your students explore new genres at their level
- How to bring literature to life with video assignments
- How to easily share and schedule valuable activities and resources with parents

There will be time to get your questions answered after Sarah’s presentation. You will leave feeling inspired to enhance your summer reading program. This edWebinar will benefit PreK-5 teachers, librarians and administrators, as well as reading coaches and literacy specialists.

## July 2017 Webinar

**Leave No Child Offline and Leave No  
Teacher Behind: Why Equity and  
Access to Digital Tools, Tech-Savvy  
Teachers, and the Internet are  
Important to the Future of Our  
Nation**

Monday, July 24, 2017 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm EDT



Register:

<https://www.anymeeting.com/AccountManager/RegEv.aspx?PIID=ED50DC8488463F>

Digital equity and access in the 21st century are crucial to students being able to compete on a global level: There are few places in society where technology is not utilized or playing an important role. As a result, it's more critical than ever that students graduate with the 21<sup>st</sup> century literacy and technology skills they need to navigate, read and succeed in our increasingly interconnected, digital world



## SUMMER EXPLORATION



<http://resources.overdrive.com/summer-read/>

OverDrive Summer Read is an annual program designed to encourage your students to keep reading all year long. The titles selected can supplement other summer reading programs, and will offer free, simultaneous access to students from June 7th-August 7th. The collection of titles will be prominently displayed on your OverDrive-powered website in eBook format. We will cycle through the collection throughout the summer to ensure your students are aware of each exciting read!

### **EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT OVERDRIVE SUMMER READ TITLES**

<http://blogs.overdrive.com/schools/2017/05/09/2017-overdrive-summer-read-title-details/>



Open educational resources (OER) are found in the public domain and can be used for free for teaching, learning, research, and other educational purposes. These materials can be retained, reused, revised, remixed, and redistributed. These “5R permissions” of OER allow you to not only access the materials and resources free of charge, but also to make them even better. Sounds good, right? But what’s really out there, and why should you use these resources?

There are several examples of OER available, including image and audio resources, books in the public domain, video and audio lectures, interactive simulations, game-based learning programs, lesson plans, textbooks, online course curricula, professional learning programs, and online learning platforms.

### **Why You Should Use OER**

OER allow educators to adapt instructional materials to the individual needs of their students. This helps ensure that content and resources are up to date and relevant and fit the unique needs of diverse student populations. Because of publishing timelines, traditional classroom materials like textbooks can often be out of date by the time they’re implemented in the classroom. And that doesn’t even take into account the curriculum adoption cycles that exist in most districts, which result in content areas updating resources on a two-, three-, or four-year rotation due to budgetary constraints.

OER also guarantee that cost is not a barrier to accessing high-quality, standards-aligned resources. Teachers can save significant time and effort related to resource development through the implementation of OER. Additionally, the open sharing of resources allows educators to collaborate across geographic, time, and space boundaries.

### **Where to Look**

So how do you find free, high-quality resources? When looking for OER, a good place to start is one of the repositories that house a variety of tools for educators. Resources to locate OER can be found in the article link. <https://www.edutopia.org/blog/free-good-bethany-rayl>



## **1200 Free Online Courses from Top Universities**

<http://www.openculture.com/freeonlinecourses>

Get 1200 free online courses from the world’s leading universities — Stanford, Yale, MIT, Harvard, Berkeley, Oxford and more. You can download these audio & video courses (often from iTunes, YouTube, or university web sites) straight to your computer or mp3 player. Over 30,000 hours of free audio & video lectures, await you now.



## **Fun and Free Summer Learning Resources**

<https://www.edutopia.org/blog/summer-learning-resources-matt-davis>

### **48 Ultra-Cool Summer Sites for Kids and Teachers**

<https://www.edutopia.org/blog/48-summer-websites-kids-teachers-keith-ferrell>

### **Reading Rockets**

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/get-ready-summer-ideas-teachers-share-families>

<http://www.readingrockets.org/>

### **PBS Kids**

<http://www.wjct.org/education/summer/>

## **Summer Learning Activities**

[http://www.internet4classrooms.com/links\\_grades\\_kindergarten\\_12/parents\\_summer\\_learning.htm](http://www.internet4classrooms.com/links_grades_kindergarten_12/parents_summer_learning.htm)

Sign up for Internet4Classrooms' Daily and Weekly Summer Program, for Pre-K through 12th Grade. We send you fun and engaging activities to practice reading, math, science, social studies, vocabulary and much more!



## **CALLING ALL CODERS**

<http://www.techlearning.com/resources/0003/calling-all-coders/70559>

By 2018, there will be more than two million open jobs in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) professions, but only 19 percent of current college degrees are in

STEM fields. Even worse, 75 percent of students that do well in science and math decide to not pursue STEM in college. If we want to remain a global leader, we have to develop more interest in these topics. One way to do that is by to show students that coding ties into nearly everything we do. And to do that, we need to incorporate programming into the curriculum, just as they've done in the examples in this article.

## Summer Coding Camps

**iD Tech Coding Camp** Locations - Co-ed options include iD Tech Camps for ages 7-17, iD Tech Academies for teens ages 13-18, and iD Tech Mini for ages 6-9. We also offer Alexa Café, an all-girls program for ages 10-15.

<https://www.idtech.com/locations/new-jersey-summer-camps/>

Montclair State University  
Seton Hall University  
Kean University

**Sylvan Learning - In Coding for Kids**, your son or daughter will have a blast creating video games, animated stories and bringing their imaginations to life. You don't even have to mention all the cool skills he or she is learning along the way: basic coding and programming, problem solving, logic, physics and more. 1-888-338-2283

**YuKodIt** - Students will practice to acquire expertise in areas such as coding, design thinking and implementation. 581 Valley Road (St. James Church)

Montclair  
Call 415-YouKodIT



[https://40htw.com/join/secrets/?\\_s=7hyakttibpocstgziyog](https://40htw.com/join/secrets/?_s=7hyakttibpocstgziyog)

An on-demand, free video series for teachers

In this free 7 part video series, I'm sharing practical time-saving strategies and simple mindset shifts that will help you:

- \* Discover how to create your end-of-summer vision (what do you want your life to look like when summer is over?)
  - \* Select attainable, realistic goals that will move you toward that vision
  - \* Learn simple time-saving tips that will help you work smarter, not harder
- \* Explore 5 productivity strategies for home and school that will help you feel more accomplished AND allow you to truly relax
- \* Get ideas for using your summer to get ahead for fall, including key tasks that can be done now to free up more time once school begins

You can complete the training in just under an hour, and printable resources plus an audio-only version are included!



#### **4 Things Everyone Should Know About Early STEM Learning**

<https://www.common sense.org/education/blog/4-things-everyone-should-know-about-early-stem-learning>

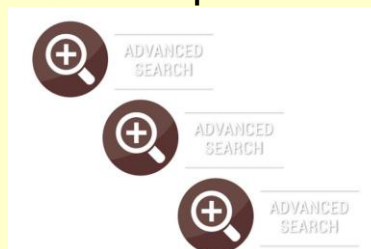
Find out how you can support young learners in building STEM skills in and out of the classroom.

#### **6 Steps to Strengthen Early STEM Learning**

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/2017/05/19/steps-strengthen-early-stem/?ps=moseslin%40orange.k12.nj.us-001a000001JpSSN-003a000001hE1Ux>



**Teach Students to Search Like a Boss With These 5 Easy Google Advanced Search Tips**



## 5 Simple Techniques That can Make Anyone a Google Search Rock Star

Google Search is such a useful tool in our day to day lives, we totally take it for granted. But even the most tech-savvy searchers are often not aware of simple techniques that can make this powerhouse app even more useful, and help them find precisely what they're looking for faster.

Knowing how to efficiently find information on the Web is a vital element of today's digital literacy requirements for our students, and for us as educators and professionals. Save time and be a search hero with these easy to use advanced search techniques.

<http://www.emergingedtech.com/2016/02/teach-students-easy-google-advanced-search-tips>



## 30 Useful Apps For Students You Probably Don't Know About

<http://www.opencolleges.edu.au/informed/features/30-of-the-best-productivity-apps-for-online-students/>

The majority of students use online and mobile apps primarily for entertainment according to the Refuel report, with over 70% using them for games, 67% using them for music, and 64% using them for social networking.

If you want to encourage your students to start taking advantage of the many technology tools available to them, here are a few examples of the types of productivity and learning apps that can support them in their studies.



**Champion Creatively Alive Children**

**Creative Leadership Grants 2017**





## **Essential Elements for Digital Content**

<http://www.edweb.net/digitalcontent>

Essential Elements for Digital Content is a free professional learning community (PLC) that provides policy makers, school administrators and educator leaders a better understanding of policies and practices related to digital instructional materials.

This community will provide members the opportunity to stay connected, share successes and lessons learned with peers, and get support on issues from a leader's perspective.

## **Preparing for September School Leadership: Resource Roundup**

<http://tinyurl.com/lz2a327>

For principals and other school administrators, this list of videos, blogs, and articles includes advice and tips on effective leadership strategies, partnering with teachers, and cultivating and retaining strong leaders.

# TECHNOLOGY HUMOR

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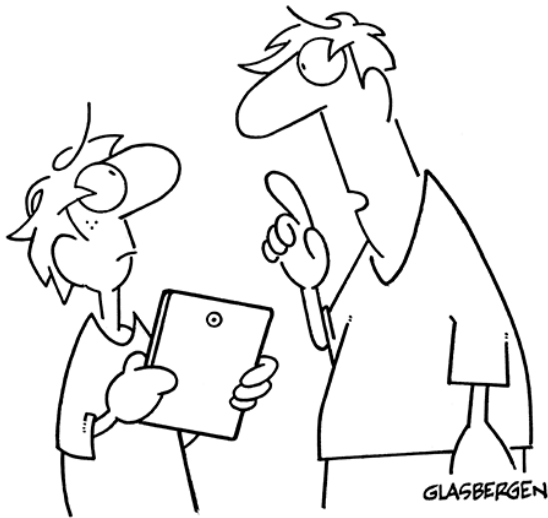
**"My side of the family is full-blooded DOS and Windows, but you are one-quarter Mac with a bit of Linux and Android on your mother's side."**

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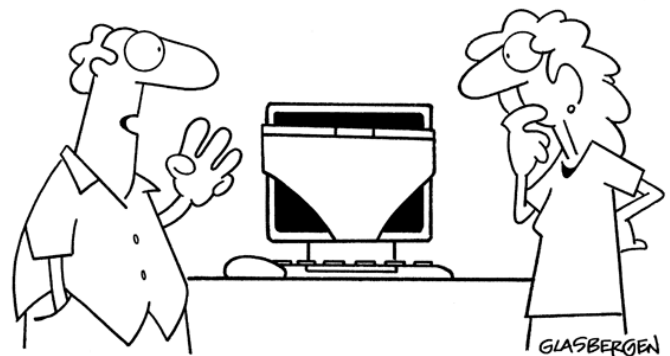
**"Everyone in the office is getting a netbook. Little screens make our problems look smaller!"**

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**"Remember son, you can't judge a book by it's file size."**

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**"There are three ways to make the Internet safer for your children — hardware, software, and underwear."**