TECH BYTES

10 Technology Tips for New Teachers
By Kevin Nelson
http://tinyurl.com/y9mq8r6d

Teaching is one of the toughest professions out there, as most people realize. What is even tougher is to be a newcomer in this profession. I remember how overwhelmed I was in my first months on the job … so much new information to learn and process, so many situations for which one simply cannot be prepared.

Looking back now, I can appreciate the experience of being a novice, with a fresh perspective and an open mind. As I have been growing more experienced, I have tried my best to preserve this open-mindedness and embrace all the new and exciting things that happen all the time and change our lives. Such an attitude has proved to be ever more useful, as the pace of time seems to accelerate and new technologies get introduced more often than ever.

I firmly believe that it should be the goal for every new teacher to take full advantage of new technologies. So, as the new school year approaches, I would like to share some technology-related tips with my younger colleagues;

1. **Consider a professional presence in social media**
As a young person, you are likely to already be an active user of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. But now that you are a teacher, you can leverage these platforms as a professional. However, don't re-format your existing profiles where you catch up with your friends to accord to your new professional needs. It would be a critical mistake to mix the personal and the professional.

2. **Build connections**
Find your colleagues and befriend / follow them. Don't be shy to post comments and engage in conversations … this is an essential part of building your presence. I would not suggest following students on social media.

3. **Communicate**
One of the main functions of social media is to facilitate communication between people. So, make use of it. Here is what you can do:
Whenever one of your colleague posts something interesting about your subject or school, consider commenting and engaging in discussion. This can help you to reveal your unique voice and establish your personality in the school environment.

4. Start a blog
It is true that the job of a teacher is not the one that leaves you with a lot of spare time. But admit it – you sit down and have a conversation about something that happened today with an imaginary partner every now and then.

5. Interact with students about your online activities
You can be 100% sure that your students will gossip about your social media presence and your blog. Actually, it would be ominous if they didn't: this would mean that you are not interesting enough to talk about. Anyway, being gossiped about behind your back is not a very pleasant thing. Instead, why don't you ask them for a feedback? Of course, you should not be authoritative or judgmental about it, and it is your duty to inform and convince them that they can speak their minds freely. Furthermore, you can ask them to guest-post for your blog and encourage it using the means that you have as a teacher! But, once again, always stay professional about it.

6. Take advantage of online conferences
Online conferences should be nothing new to you. Thanks to the modern technologies, you can also attend professional development conferences staying in the comfort of your home or office. Back in the offline era teachers would have to spend quite some money and time just to get to one of those conferences. The older teachers actually envy the younger generation who can just plug in and participate in a distant event without actually traveling there. They didn't have such opportunities at the dawn of their careers.

7. Be aware of purchased custom writing
If you try and google something like "write my paper for me", you will see pages upon pages of search results with websites who offer custom writing services for a reasonable fee. You might even have at least considered using their help when you were a student yourself.

It is true that such services are more popular among college students who have a little more money to spare and a lot more written tasks assigned to them. Still, these websites also advertise services for high school students. This means that there is a demand for those services. While you cannot ensure that student won't use these services, an open discussion about the realities of these services, and cons vs. pros of using them, is worth considering.

8. Make use of an LMS or similar tool
LMS stands for "learning management system". These are widely used in most colleges. Many K-12 schools are also using some form of LMS, or at the minimum, a platform where teachers can have their own web page.

Basically, the LMS is a supplement to your classroom. They often include the following features:

– a forum-like environment where participants can ask and answer questions, individually or collectively;

– a variety of assessment tools;

– a way to locate and organize all available resources: links, videos, worksheets, etc.

The right stuff: Teaching kids about copyright
BY TARA WOODALL

How to help kids learn about copyright by finding and using other people's creative works legally and ethically.

We (rightfully) spend significant time and energy teaching kids to be aware of their digital footprints. Stories abound about momentary lapses of judgment leading to loss of employment or scholarships. Students tend to embrace these lessons because they care about reputation. Obviously, we must continue these important lessons; however, we must realize that digital citizenship encompasses other online behavior, too.
I'm talking about teaching kids about copyright.

It can be hard to get moral compasses to twitch when discussing the intricacies of copyright law, public domain, fair use, and Creative Commons. Those concepts seem abstract and removed from the concerns of adolescents. It can be even harder to break them of the habit of doing a Google image search and grabbing the first relevant and powerful image they see.

But remember that John F. Kennedy famously talked about the importance of doing the "hard stuff" in his "moon speech" at Rice Stadium in 1962. He spoke of the importance of getting to the moon, but I think that we can take the spirit of his words and apply them to teaching this particular tough corner of digital citizenship. I'm here to argue that we should choose to teach copyright not because it is easy, but because it is hard, because the goal of understanding copyright will serve to measure the best of student energies, skills, and citizenship.

Because the Common Core calls for us to teach students how to "use technology, including the internet, to produce and publish writing," educators can teach kids about copyright as they teach the Common Core writing standards. Teachers simply need to teach some key concepts, share some tools, and model digital citizenship in terms of copyright explicitly in the classroom.

Frankly, it isn't as hard as getting to the moon. With the right resources, our students will be out-of-this-world digital citizens in no time at all.

Teach Concepts
Students need to understand the following concepts: copyright, public domain, fair use, and Creative Commons. Fortunately, teachers can access numerous resources and lessons to help give kids the foundation to make wise choices online.

- [Common Sense Education](#) has lessons and wonderful animated videos on copyright and fair use.
- [Creative Commons](#) provides fantastic resources in the form of videos about how copyright and Creative Commons licenses work together.
- [Teaching Copyright](#) from the Electronic Frontier Foundation offers information on public domain.

Linger and explore those websites for more goodies to share with your students. Stress the fact that all creations are copyrighted, so that students look for Creative Commons licenses instead of the visible absence of a ©. [Read full article...](#)

Copyright for Teachers and Students
http://tinyurl.com/yadhhpwt

TEACHING TIPS

7 Fun and Engaging Video Projects for the ESL Classroom
http://tinyurl.com/y9h6hkph

In most ESL classes, there comes a time when students must prove their oral skills, either through a speaking exam or an oral presentation. Traditionally these are done orally in front of the class, but using video for the oral presentation may help to calm some nerves and allow for a lot of creativity on the student's part. It's up to the teacher to assign a project that works for the level, assesses the target grammar or vocabulary, and gives the student a chance to demonstrate their progress in a creative and fun way. And no extra equipment or software is necessary because students can make and edit their videos right from their smartphones or tablets.
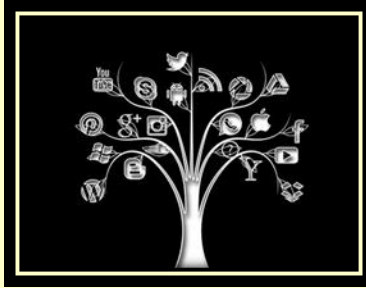
8 Ways Teachers Can Leverage Podcasts as a Learning Tool
http://tinyurl.com/y72vdxyp

For those of you that still remember, one of the major features of radio broadcasting was the radio shows, which are like the soap operas of today. They were on a regular schedule and episodic, basically the definition of podcasts. Podcasts are usually audio files, although you may occasionally get video (vodcast), or a PDF file.

Podcasts have enjoyed moderate popularity since they first started appearing in 2004, but their popularity soared in 2015, partly because of much better podcast quality, and partly because most people could now afford smart phones. With the rise of podcasting, it presents a great opportunity for teachers to create a unique approach in mentoring their students.

FREE WEBINAR

Coding + STEAM: Getting Students Future Ready
Tuesday, October 10, 2017 @ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm EDT
http://home.edweb.net/webinar/stem20171011/

Coding is an essential 21st century language, but coding alone won't be enough to prepare today's students for tomorrow's careers. What students are able to DO with code will be what matters. Students will need to be creative problem solvers in order to truly be ready for whatever lies ahead. By engaging students in STEAM as well as coding, educators will help prepare students to be creative problem solvers no matter what careers come their way.

Get tips and tricks on integrating coding and STEAM plus lots of ideas that you can try in your classroom, makerspace, or school.

Engagement by Design: Structuring the Class to Engage "Tuned Out" Students
Tuesday, October 17, 2017 @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm EDT
http://home.edweb.net/webinar/structuring-class-engage-tuned-students/

How do we transform the "tuned out" student to a "turned on" learner? In this edWebinar, Kevin Baird, Chairman of the Board at the nonprofit Center for College & Career Readiness, reviews best practice research and draws from real-life success stories of classrooms that changed to engage. Attendees will learn how classroom design can directly impact student engagement.

Google Classroom Setup/Managing Classroom
Wednesday, October18, 2017 @ 4:00 p.m.
http://ctl.info/webinars/

The webinar will discuss the very basics–what Drive is, how it works, what features it contains and how to do some organizational tasks. Wondering what Google Classroom is and how it can help you organize digital tasks in your classroom? Join us for an overview of this tool and how it interacts with the other Google Apps for Education.

Stockio is a website that offers free images, icons, fonts, and videos to download and re-use in your own projects. According to the notices that accompany each file on Stockio, attribution is not required but is appreciated. To download an image, an icon, or a font set from Stockio you do not have to register on the site. Simply browse or search then hit the download button when you find something that you like.

Internet Safety Tips for Children & Teens
http://tinyurl.com/y84e8x58

The Internet is an incredible resource, full of fascinating content and endless knowledge. But as we all know, it can be a dangerous place for kids and teenagers. Read on for some excellent tips parents can use to make sure your children enjoy the Internet in a secure and safe way.

As an adult, you're most likely very aware how to protect your privacy and personal information online as well as the shady pitfalls and traps to avoid. But generally a young adolescent is mostly focused on sharing and connecting with friends and safety is their last priority – although it certainly should be one of their first.

Here are some simple internet safety tips that you can use to keep your children safe on the web– some of which you will likely find useful as well!
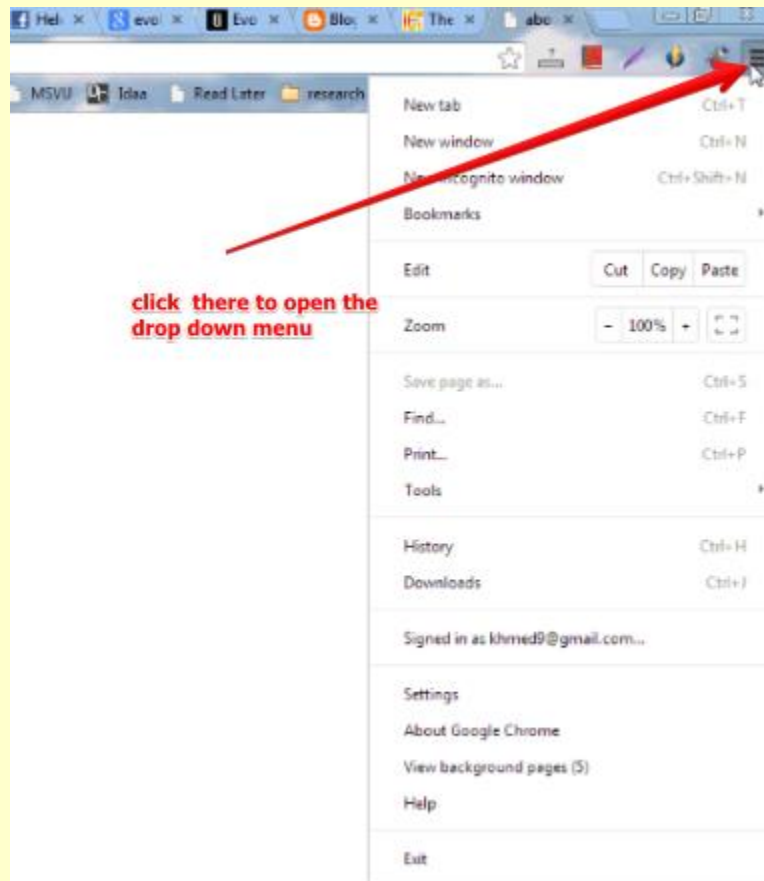

CHROME EXTENSIONS WARNING AND
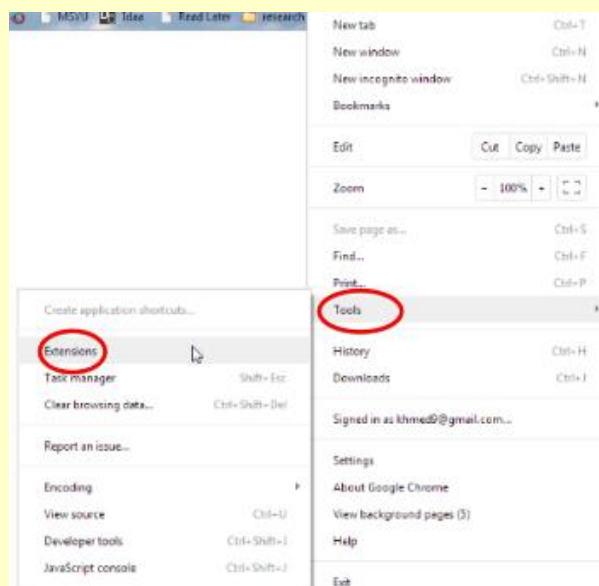## 15+GREAT CHROME EXTENSIONS FOR TEACHERS

The thing about Chrome extensions is that you need to be careful with the ones you install on your Chrome browser; some might cause loading time issues and others might cause the sudden crushes that Chrome is known for. Therefore, choose only the add-ons that you think can really be helpful to you and if it happened that you installed an extension and then later

on realized that you don't use it at all, go to your Chrome settings and get it deleted. Another work-around for problems caused by installing too many extensions on your browser is to download the extensions you need and put them in 'disabled' mode, activate them only when you need them. Here is how to do it:
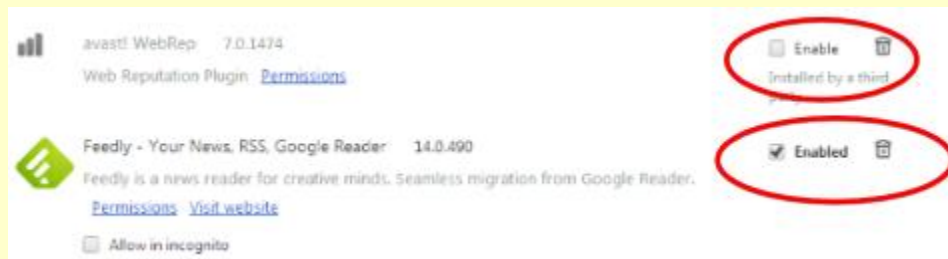
1- Click on customize button to open the drop down menu

2-- Click on Tools, then on extensions

3- Uncheck the " enable" button in front of the extension you want to disable . Chrome automatically saves your changes.

Now check out the list of some great Chrome extensions created by Link Jake Duncan.

HOW TO TALK TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT THE NEWS

News gleaned from the TV, radio, or Internet can be a positive educational experience for kids. But when the images presented are violent or the stories touch on disturbing topics, problems can arise.

Seeing coverage of upsetting events like terrorist attacks, mass shootings, and natural disasters might cause kids to worry that something similar could happen to them or their loved ones. It also can make them fear some aspect of daily life — like thunderstorms — that they never worried about before.

Reports on shootings, attacks, and child abductions also can teach kids to view the world as a confusing, threatening, or unfriendly place.

How can you deal with these disturbing stories and images? Talking to your kids about what they watch or hear will help them put frightening information into a reasonable context.

Read entire article to acquire tip on how to talk to your kids…….more

Another Resource for Teaching Kids about the NEWS

http://teachingkidsnews.com/discussing-challenging-news-stories-with-kids/

KitHub

There are lots of resources out there for teachers to take advantage of. To make sorting through all that information easier, KITHUB has collected the best free STEM resources we could find.

Good Teaching • Google Tips and Tricks
Five Tools for Creating Global Perspective in the Classroom

These technology tools make it easy to help expand a student's global perspective and connect him/her to the world every day. The inability for a student to physically travel the globe no longer limits their ability to have global experiences. Technology provides a way to expand our frame of reference or point of view, as learners, through a lens that moves beyond the borders of time and space. These enriching experiences can come through videos, virtual tours, online live connections, and interactive activities that move learners to a deeper understanding.

Creating Authentic Experiences
A more authentic experience can take place when we bring the world to our students. Students can take virtual tours of historic landmarks and investigate global cultures and geography via virtual opportunities like Google Earth. They can participate in Mystery Skypes and build a capacity for asking high-level, probing questions of students across the country or world to reveal their "secret" geographical location. They can virtually interview students from different cultural backgrounds to identify common characteristics, explore differences, and dispel potentially inaccurate perceptions.

Building an opportunity into our instructional day to allow students to explore the breadth of the world can offer a new perspective of the environment they live in day to day.

Five Tools for Building Global Connections

Through ever improving technology, we can now communicate with anyone, anytime, anywhere and potentially through the watch on your wrist! Students can collaborate with students down the street, across the continent, or on the other side of the world to solve problems, create projects, and form learning communities, even if they don't speak the same language.

The walls of classrooms dissolve through opportunities for students to connect with others across the world through platforms like G Suite, ZOOM, and my new favorite, Belouga.

❏ G Suite applications provide collaboration on demand. They allow connectivity through multiple opportunities like Google Docs, Slides, and Sheets that can be shared with multiple contributors and without time zone barriers. Visit edu.google.com to learn more.

❏ Google Communities provide a platform for students to connect in multiple areas of interest and in an authentic way by contributing and consuming as digital learners inside the communities of their choice. Join today at plus.google.com.

❏ Connecting through Google Sites allows for students to create ePortfolios to show their learning and connect with others through the digital sharing of their learning. Create your site at sites.google.com.

❏ ZOOM is a user-friendly platform for video conferencing that includes features of screen sharing, document sharing, and recording. ZOOM allows for multiple participants and the ability for multiple hosts. Visit zoom.us to learn more.

❏ Belouga not only connects classrooms of students and perpetuates the opportunity for global collaborative learning and education, but it also gives students the opportunity to earn reward points and then donate them to help provide educational opportunities for students who live in under-resourced communities. People helping people through collaborative connections are truly the spirit of perspective expansion. Connect your classroom today at belouga.org.

APP of the Month

SEESAW

https://web.seesaw.me/

Parents want to celebrate their kids' achievements every step of the way, so it's important to keep them in the loop on their kids' progress throughout the school year. With Seesaw, a student portfolio app, students can store and post their best work to share with their parents. Teachers, on the other hand, can provide concrete examples of their students' strengths and weaknesses to their parents during teacher-parent meetings. **Training on this tool is coming to a CPT near you soon.**

GrantsALert.com

THE NEA FOUNDATION®

Learning & Leadership Grants
https://www.neafoundation.org/for-educators/learning-and-leadership-grants/

We have provided funding to thousands of educators, enabling them to develop their professional practice to improve student learning.

Administrator's Resource Center

In this time of rapid change, school and district leaders are more important than ever. The administrator's standards are a guide for administrators in digital age learning, creating technology-rich learning environments and leading the transformation of the educational landscape.

ISTE Standards
https://www.iste.org/docs/pdfs/20-14_ISTE_Standards-A_PDF.pdf

ISTE Standards Refresh Input
https://www.iste.org/standards/standards/administrators-refresh

TECHNOLOGY HUMOR