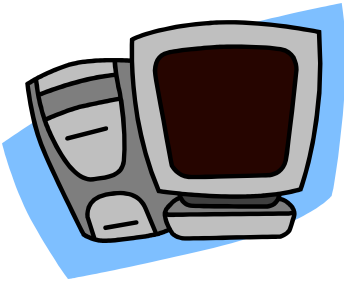


# Technology Today

*Kate Fahey's Monthly Technology Newsletter*



## Notable Teachers

- Ms. Jenkins' students created Thanksgiving webs using Inspiration. They organized the things they were thankful for and then wrote a paragraph based on the web.
- Ms. Jones' students calculated calories from fat and percentage of calories from fat. They then created graphs and performed an analysis.
- Ms. Langley's students described the stages of the water cycle by writing complete sentences of the stages and replacing some words with pictures.
- Mr. Bates' students wrote letters to Stephen F. Austin explaining why they would like to come to Texas.

## Teacher as a Facilitator

The lab is an interesting place. For some, it's as comfortable as the traditional classroom, but for others, it's a scary place. Technology can be intimidating primarily because you must push yourself outside of your comfort zone. The typical "sage on stage" role of the teacher cannot work in the lab. The teacher must learn to adapt to a new role: facilitator.

Why do we require lab lessons? Well, the world is changing. There is a new kind of literacy—digital literacy—that we, as teachers, are required to teach. Sounds like yet another thing to pile on the teacher plate, right? It can be, if that is the attitude you choose to take. Just like with every-

thing else in life, you choose your reaction. If you embrace technology and seek out ways to integrate it, you will find that it will actually make life easier for you. I believe that being a facilitator is easier than being the "sage on stage". You are free to lead students to true learning, rather than rote memorization. Your students are tired at the end, instead of you!!

We are fortunate in Grand Prairie because we have software, such as EdClass and ConnectedTech, which make the facilitation fairly simple. Lessons are already created for us. We just need to familiarize ourselves with the specific lesson before entering the lab. This is a great time to anticipate stu-

dent questions, which is something I can help with. When you are armed with tools, the job of facilitating becomes easier. Leading students through lessons can even be fun!

To be a facilitator, you need to provide your students with the tools they need to create something on their own. In technology, that can be as simple as a step-by-step visual. I have created those for several teachers and am happy to do so for everyone! It's important to encourage students to read and think on their own before providing them with the answer. I think we are often scared of technology and worry that we might break something. 99% of the time, whatever is broken can easily be fixed!

## Website of the Month

As your technology facilitator, one of my jobs is to provide you with resources for integration. In an effort to do so, I have developed a website that is linked off of the KMS main page. If you click on "Technology", you will be taken to my personal technology site. Within that

site, I have instructional materials for Eduphoria and other software applications used in the district. Quick links to commonly used websites are also listed there. The monthly newsletter is available in addition to a "website of the week" section. As I stumble on great

websites, I plan to post them there. Currently, there is an integration idea spreadsheet based on the 6-week curriculum—check it out for some great ideas! Please check the site often! I want it to be valuable to you, so feel free to send me websites YOU find.

**"Technology is just a tool. In terms of getting the kids working together and motivating them, the teacher is the most important."**

**-Bill Gates**