ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON'S

School 2 Home NEWSLETTER

Collaboration

Theme of the Month

This month's theme is Collaboration, which can be integrated across all content areas.

Since the CSTs are right around the corner, April is all about preparing students for the test! This provides us with the perfect opportunity to allow students to work together to review for the CST using collaborative tools online. Google Presentation, a tool that all students should have access to using their MyMail account, is a great place for students to work in groups to review content that will appear on the CST and put together a test preparation presentation to share with their peers. Students can create review questions, work through examples of the toughest problems they may see on the test, and more!

The number one goal this month is to get students to regularly bring their laptop to school in order to achieve the second goal, which is to have students collaborate in a Google Presentation.

Goals of the Month

1. Require your students to **bring** their **laptop to school EVERY DAY**!
2. Have students collaborate in a **Google Presentation** or Document at least once in preparation for CST.

🛠 Tech Tips

Online Assignment Submissions: Students can submit files to you online using their MyMail Google Docs. All you have to do is setup *Collections* (formerly known as folders) that are shared with individual students for individual assignments and share a *Collection* with each class period for group assignments. Then students simply create files and add them to your shared *Collections*.

Grading in Google Docs: Flubaroo is a Google Docs add-on for instant grading using Google Forms and Spreadsheets. It allows you to generate reports, email students their assignment grades, and automatically highlights questions with class averages of below 60%!

Top 10 Ways Students are Using Laptops Daily in Class

1. Take class notes - organized in Google Docs
2. Find answers to questions online – *Researcher* is a classroom monitor position
3. Daily running **warm-ups in Google Docs**
4. Daily running exit slips - students write a summary of learning at end of each class
5. Check homework and daily agenda posted on teacher's Stevenson homepage – Add due dates to their Google Calendar (MyMail)
6. **Question Log** – students post questions during lesson and other students answer them.
7. Take quizzes/polls created in Google Forms
8. Explore online textbook resources (BrainPOP)
9. Play skill practice games online
10. Collaborate on homework, etc. in **Edmodo**

April Line-up

Technology Professional Development: REGISTER
- 4/4 - Assignment Submissions Online
- 4/6 – Introduction to Google Presentation
- 4/7 – Engaging Teaching Strategies
- 4/13 – Working around LAUSD Email Restrictions using MyMail
- 4/14 – Collaborating in Google Presentation
- 4/18-4/21 - **Level 1: Technology Proficiency Academy** – ITO Workshop
- 4/25 – Collaborating in Google Docs
- 4/27 - Creating Surveys using Google Forms
- **District Run Technology PDs: ITO Workshops**

Others
- Due 4/15 – Parent/Student Handbook Agreement
- **Teacher School2Home Survey** – please submit

Curricular Resources: Review for CST

Math
CST Review Games – Jeopardy CST review games for 6th & 7th grade math and Algebra.

Physical Education
Dr. Bonnie Mohnsens' Podcasts– using technology in PE.

Art & Music
Arts Impact – A lesson plan database for the arts. Also great for all teachers wanting to incorporate art in other content areas.

English Language Arts
CST Jeopardy Review: (1) **6th Grade**, (2) **ELA Review** – Topics: Indefinite pronouns, reading comprehension, Literary Response, Writing comprehension, writing strategies, (3) **CST Released Questions** - Topics: Vocab, Poetry, Foreign Words, Language, Writing.

English as a Second Language
Best Sites for Teaching ELLs - A collection of the best sites for teaching ELL students, including learning about animals, nutrition and food safety, basic understanding of adjectives, and ways to use photos in lessons.

History
Virtual Library – A wealth of resources for middle school history teachers and parents, including: many sites that contain lesson plans, sites where with student friendly current events, geography, and government lesson plans and resources.
CST Review PPTs – 6th, 7th, and 8th grade history CST Review questions in PowerPoints.

Science
Earthquakes & Volcanoes – Jeopardy

CST review

All Content Areas:
Jeopardy Labs – Create your own Jeopardy games online, or browse through library.
Super Teacher Tools – Lots of great game makers for CST Review, including: Jeopardy, Who Wants to be a Millionaire, Speed Match, Board Games, and other great tools!

March at a Glance

Hours of Parent Workshops: 36
Total Parent Attendance: 149
Laptops Earned: 79
Hours of PD/Collaboration: 33
Total Teacher Attendance: 57
Hours of Technical Support: 92
Hours of Fun using Laptops: Tons

Parent Engagement Strategy

We are all focusing our class time this month on preparing our students for the CSTs, so why not get parents involved? This month is a great time to contact parents and provide them with resources they can use to get their child ready for test day.

If you have not already, ask parents for their email addresses and cell phone numbers. Send parents weekly emails and text messages with curricular resources (including those listed above) and CST review questions they can use with their child to practice and prepare for the CST. The week before the test, ask parents to make sure their child gets to bed early, eats a healthy breakfast, and is waking up early enough to get to school unrushed every day during testing week. Encourage them to celebrate their child's hard work with a special family dinner the night before the first day of testing. Connect-ED reminders can also be sent home daily or weekly reminding parents that the test is coming up and that their child should be studying.

In the spirit of collaboration month, why not ask parents to work with their child to complete a CST review assignment or better yet, set goals with their child to achieve a target score? This month's focus is collaborating in a Google Presentation, so have students and their parents create slides with CST target goals, focus areas of review based on their performance on the periodic assessments and class tests throughout the year, and create a daily plan of action for test preparation.

Just For Fun

Throughout this month of test preparation, our minds need a break. So what better way to take a break than to play a game, or two, or three?! If you are in the mood for a mentally stimulating diversion, **Sporcle** is the site for you! This site contains 1,000s of addictive quizzes and timed trivia games, including: Name That Tune, Name That Logo, 4-Letter Movie Titles, This Day in History, Books by Their Covers. All games are organized by category, including: Sports, Entertainment, Geography, Movies, Music, and More!