

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON'S School Home NEWSLETTER

Presentation

Theme of the Month

Presentation, presentation, presentation! This month's **technology theme** can be integrated throughout all content areas.

In honor of Presentation month, the technology curriculum focus is on teaching students web tools that can be used to create and enhance class projects and presentations. During March and April, every 6th and 7th grade student will learn how to collaboratively use Google Presentation (in Google Docs) to demonstrate learning in his or her English Language Arts class. And during one math class period, students will learn how to use graphs in Google Spreadsheets to analyze and present data. Science and History classes will catch up on previous month's technology lessons, and be asked to lead a technology lesson next month.

Google Presentation Strategy: Have students present work/findings at the end of a class period in a Presentation that is shared with all classmates. This can now be used as a study guide.

1:1 Laptop Classroom Tips

1. Seating Arrangements: Depending on the assignment, you should consider seating arrangement when monitoring your student's laptop use. If your students are working in groups, management by walking around is important. If your students are working individually, it is helpful to have students positioned in rows that face one direction so you can see all laptop screen at once. Students without laptops should be put out of view of laptop screens, so they aren't distracted.

2. Use Timers: Timers are great for any activity (quizzes, warm-ups, discussions, etc.). For class activities that involve laptops, use a timer so students know they don't have all day. Try projecting this [online stopwatch](#) or this [class timer](#) while students are working. - [Mike Hasley](#)

Goals of the Month

Choose 3 ways student will use laptops regularly for your class, for example:

1. Daily warm-ups in Google Docs
2. Use online textbook resources
3. Check/Post homework online

Tech Tip

Making a Great Presentation: The following are tips that will guide you in creating a fabulous presentation (1) **Focus on the content first** when making a presentation. Don't get carried away with all the fancy tools in PowerPoint, Google Presentation, or whatever presentations tool you are using. (2) Use bullets to help guide your presentation. Bullets should be short memory joggers, not sentences or paragraphs that act as a script. (3) **Do not use pictures as a slide background!** Text over pictures is hard to read. Instead, use pictures to bring to life the content on a slide. (4) **Use the notes section** on each slide to add a pacing guide and extra data to help you present.

March Line-up

School2Home Parent Workshops

- **March 2nd** - Last day to register [online](#) (by 3pm).
- **March 16th** - Last parent Workshop. Click here for [Parent Workshop Calendar](#).

Technology Professional Development

- Click to view March [Teacher Tech PD Calendar](#).

And More...

- **March 7th** - Technology Champions application deadline. Click to [apply online](#).
- **March 17-19th** - **CUE Conference** (Computer Using Educators), Palm Springs
 - Pamela Stiles, Micheline LeBlanc, and Bonnie Marks will be presenting
 - Submit a Conference Request Form if you would like to attend
- **School2Home Survey for Teachers**

Curricular Resources

Math

[Graphic Organizers](#) – You can find one for most math concepts and formulas!

[BBC Bitesize Math](#) – Animated lessons, activities, games, and quizzes. Lessons/activities can be subtitled for EL students.

Physical Education

[PE Resources and graphic organizers](#) – find lesson plans, quizzes, and other resources for integrating all core subjects into PE and visa versa.

Art & Music

[Best of 2010](#) – A collection of art and music sites including: [Paint like Jackson Pollock](#) and [Ujam](#) (hum, whistle, or sing and the site turns you into an instrument and fixes it so it is in tune).

Science

[BBC Bitesize Science](#) – Animated lessons, activities, games, and quizzes. Lessons/activities can be subtitled for EL students.

English Language Arts

[BBC Bitesize English](#) – Reading, writing, speaking and listening, and Shakespearean animated lessons and quizzes.

English as a Second Language

[Best Sites for Learning Vocabulary](#)

- A collection of the best sites for ELL students, including [English Central](#), a site where students can learn English by watching popular videos with subtitles, practice key vocabulary, record voice and get immediate pronunciation feedback, take vocabulary quizzes, and track learning progress.

February at a Glance

Parent Registrations:	97
Actual Parent Attendance	76
Hours of Parent Workshops	18
Hours of Teacher Tech PD:	36
Attendees in Teacher PD:	27
Hours of Technical Support:	76
Hours of Fun using Laptops: Lots!	

History

[Best of 2010](#) – A collection of the best social studies websites, including [DocsTeach.org](#) where you can use your students into historians using primary-based activities, and BBC's [History of the World](#) which is an interactive timeline with pictures and commentary that students can contribute to.

Parent Engagement Strategy

In Middle School, parents begin to have a more difficult time talking to their child, and vice versa. As educators, we understand how important it is for parents to be actively involved in their child's educational career. So, it is important for us to provide our students with multiple opportunities to speak with adults in their life about the work they are doing in class.

In honor of presentation month, invite your student's parents to be part of the presentation process. Have students submit the name of an adult in their life that is supporting them as an advisor or helper on the presentation/project they are being asked to complete. Send a list of questions home with students for them to ask their parent/adult helper to get their responses/feedback on the assignment and to engage them in the process. Students may not know what to ask their parents, so providing a list to students may be most useful. And most importantly, **invite parents** and other adults to

join the class on presentation day. You can even **involve parents in the evaluation process.** Imagine how powerful this experience can be for everyone involved. Students will be supported in learning at home and may be more likely to complete assignment. Parents will be actively engaged in their child's education, better comprehend the expectations of their child, and have an opportunity to evaluate their child's content knowledge.

Please **share your parent engagement success stories** with us by **clicking [here](#).**

Just For Fun

These two sites that can be used to present almost anything using a fun animation: (1) [Xtranormal.com](#) – use to create an animated video with personalized camera angles, characters, script, music, etc. (2) [Voki](#) – use to create a talking avatar, that you can completely customize and even make one of yourself. Both of these sites would be great to use for students, to present a concept to students differently than a podcast of yourself delivering the concept, or just for fun!