Are you as surprised as I at how quickly the school year is passing? It doesn’t feel like we have been in school for 5 months already. Sometimes that is a blessing, but when you have that “special” group of students, you hate to see the year end.

I have been fortunate to have worked with many of those “special” classes. The teachers are doing some innovative lessons and using technology to enhance those lessons. I understand that for many of us, technology can be a bit overwhelming. But don’t let it intimidate you. Call me and we’ll work through it together.

Have a safe and restful Christmas and holiday break. See you in the new year.

Curriculum Links

Art:
Create paintings or view galleries
http://artpad.art.com/artpad/painter
Sketch in 3D
www.sketchup.com

ESL:
Language activities
www.bbc.co.uk/languages
EspanOlé!
http://www.espanole.org

Health & PE:
PBS for life!
http://pbskids.org/itsmylife
Kidfood—eat right
http://www.kidfood.org/teachers/t_links.html

Language Arts:
Citation Machine
http://citationmachine.net
Online resources for young writers
http://www.noodletools.com/debbie/literacies/basic/yngwrite.html

Math:
Effective Math Videos
http://k12wiki.wikispaces.com/Effective+Math+Videos
Electronic Tools for Middle School Math
http://www.kentonschools.org/mslocker/lockerms.html

Music:
Music Hotlist Links
http://sln.fi.edu/tfi/hotlists/music.html

On-air Orchestra - Kid’s Space
http://www.kids-space.org/

Science:
Bad Science
http://www.ems.psu.edu/~fraser/BadScience.html
The Why Files
http://whyfiles.org

Social Studies:
Geography World—tons of maps!
http://members.aol.com/bowermanb/101.html#TABLE%20OF%20CONTENTS
Virtual Tours
http://www.theteachersguide.com/virtualtours.html

Note: the links are “hot” which means you can click on them and they will take you to the webpage.
No longer are we teaching the type of students most of us were in school. This generation is high energy and multitasking in ways we never were.

Teachers are competing with technology distractions outside the classroom unlike before. I heard someone say that we, as teachers, are asking our students to "power down" after they get into the classroom. Many of our students are listening to Ipods and Mp3 players the way we listened to portable radios. The students are far more engaged in technology than we are.

If we are going to reach these 21st century students, we need to use more technology. If you need suggestions, ideas or help, please call me. We can't continue teaching in 20th century style. We owe our students more.

Blogs to read:
- Cool Cat Teacher
- Weblogg-ed
- Random Ramblings
- Swimming in the River

Powerpoint Tips

This is also a good strategy for special education classes. Print three slides on a page and the students can add their own notes.

To do this, after you choose print, click Handouts - 3 slides per page. This will allow a lined space on the side for the students to insert their notes while having access to your lesson.

If you are looking to save a few minutes, check out this link for premade Powerpoint lessons. It's a great site.

www.worldofteaching.com