



February 2007

Middle School T.I.M.E.S. Technology Integration Made Easy & Simple



Let it snow, let it snow...

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Finally, we have snow! But, with the snow and ice come make-up days. The workdays scheduled for February 19th and 20th are now regular school days. That's a shame, because we had a great technology round-robin workshop scheduled. Hopefully, we can offer that again before school is out for the year.

The Technology Thursdays have begun with a great turnout at East Lee. I hope more teachers will take advantage of these technology workshops. They are meant to be interesting and designed so you can make a project to use in your classroom the next day.



Curriculum Links

Art:

- [Sand Art](#)
- [Art History](#)

ESL:

- [Spanish bilingual resources](#)
- [ESL Games](#)

Health & PE:

- [Fitness Journal](#)
- [Get Body Smart](#)

Language Arts:

- [Writing contest ages 6-18](#)
- [Online Storytelling](#)

Math

- [Math Nerds](#)
- [Math Teaching Ideas](#)

Music:

- [Online Metronome](#)
- [Instrument Lab](#)

Science:

- [Live Science Cams](#)
- [Toxic Town](#)

Social Studies:

- [National Atlas Maps](#)
- [My Name in Hebrew](#)

Technology Opportunities

- Technology Thursdays Workshops

February

- February 8th Wikis - West
- February 15th Blogs - West
- February 22nd Blogs - East

March

- March 8th Podcasting - East
 - March 15th Podcasting - West
- Register on Schoolink

**Click on the title and you will be directed to the site.





Gaggle Tips



Now that most of the students and teachers have been trained in Gaggle, I'm going to share some ideas for using Gaggle in your classroom.

Email:

- **Keyboarding Skills:** use email as a means of allowing students to work on and improve their keyboarding skills
- **Vocabulary and Letter Writing:** email can be used to help students improve their letter writing and grammar skills, and it can also help increase their vocabulary.

- **Email Grading:** require your students to write at least 3 emails per week, and select one email per student to grade for correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation as part of their Language Arts grade.
- **Impersonations:** interact with others who are in character. This is a fantastic way to learn about great people in history, different cultures, etc.
- **Question and Answer:** include everything from ask-a-reporter to ask-a-scientist. Students become

experts and other students email them questions.

Quote of the Month:

"Yeah, I'm a thrill seeker, but crikey, education's the most important thing."

— [Steve Irwin](#)



Web 2.0 Tips

Blogs

Blogs are a great learning tool and easy to design. [Edublogs.org](#) offers free blogs to teachers.

[4th grade classroom blog](#)

[Mrs. Young's Reading Camp](#)

Blogs aren't just for teaching. They are a great way for you to communicate your thoughts and feelings.

[Always Learning](#)

Wikis

Some of our own staff members are producing some great wikis! Take a look!

[Civil Rights](#) by Cynthia McFadden

[7th grade SS](#) by Gregg Halkuff

[7th grade SS and Language Arts](#)

By Terri Blumatte

[8th grade Science](#) by Judy Knight

[Bragg, East, & West Lee Middle Schools](#)

By Danita Russell

Social Bookmarking

Accessing your bookmarks can be difficult if you save them on one computer and need them on another. These sites will allow you to get your bookmarks from any computer that has Internet.

[Del.icio.us](#)

[Blinklist](#)

[Magnolia](#)

Technology Tips

Classroom Podcasting

I would like to introduce you to a new classroom technology—Podcasting. Podcasting is similar to the old radio broadcasts, but these are put onto the Internet.

Students record their 'pod' into a microphone on the computer or into an iPod. Then, we use a program called Audacity to upload the pod.

From this point, it becomes a bit techno-geeky, so just know that a program will change it into a useable format to upload it onto the web.

A group of young men at West Lee are trying out Podcasting by summarizing the basketball games. They love it!

[Aaron](#)

[Carlos](#)

Okay, but how can you use this in your classroom?

- Book reports
- PowerPoint presentation
- Great way to proofread writing
- Oral reports
- Classroom discussions
- Classroom debates
- Explain math problems