

Technology Integration News

Practical Ideas to Help You Thrive!

Welcome to another edition of Linden Unified's *Technology Integration News*!

This printable full color newsletter is brought to you during the school year to help you thrive in your technology integration.

In this issue, the crux of student centered learning is presented, as well as a must-do project to get your students well prepared to use the typical functions of the Chromebook and complete research projects. This is engagement at its best.

There is also a how-to on organizing your Google Drive plus a bit of humor to lighten the day.

A subject that is worth having a conversation about is technology integration; specifically what it is and how teachers and students know when an effective level has been reached. We will dive into that topic in the next issue of *Technology Integration News*, but for now be thinking about it.

In the meantime, please email me your views of how you see effective technology integration from your vantage point. What you have to say is very valuable to me and helps drive what I do.

Thanks for reading. Continue to do what you do best and always be on the lookout for ways to become even better!

At your service,

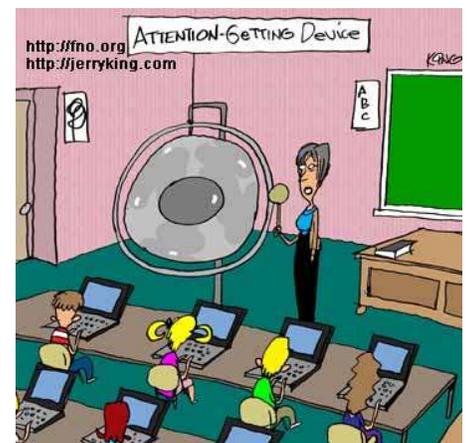
David 😊

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Training & Coaching Center
The Complicated Made Simple

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"I have a new technology to help me get your attention. When I bang this Digital Gong I want you to take your hands off your laptops and your eyes off your screens."

Student Centered Learning

This new buzzword is making its way around the country and comes with various degrees and levels of application and implication.

There has been some confusion and myths about what it all means and how it works practically in the classroom. To help streamline thinking, here are some things to think about.

The new emphasis is more on students actively participating in the process, not mindlessly turning the pages, memorizing some facts, take a test, and move on to repeat the process.

For learning to be "student-centered", student-generated questions must dictate part of the content, process, and/or product. (LoTi Framework).

Again, this is not a mindless process but one that takes time to teach students how to ask thoughtful, original, and fact searching questions that shows engagement and understanding of the material.

Warren Burger, author, speaker, and self-proclaimed Questionologist opines that there are five ways to help your students become better questioners:

1. Make it Safe

Create an environment where questioning becomes a strength using a "5 by 5" exercise, in which kids are encouraged to come up with 5 great questions about a topic during a 5-minute span.

2. Make it Cool

What if we could help students understand that the people who ask questions happen to be some of the coolest people on the planet?

3. Make it Fun

Part of the appeal of a "questions-only" exercise is that there's an element of play involved, as in: Can you turn that answer/statement into a question? Can you open your closed questions, and close your open ones? There are countless ways to inject a "game" element into questioning.

4. Make it Rewarding

Obviously, we must praise and celebrate the questions that are asked -- and not only the on-target, penetrating ones, but also the more expansive, sometimes-offbeat ones (I found that seemingly "crazy questions" sometimes result in the biggest breakthroughs). Help create a path for students to get from a question to a meaningful result. A great question can be the basis of an ongoing project, a report, an original creation of some kind. The point is to show that if one is willing to spend time on a question -- to not just Google it but grapple with it, share it with others, and build on it -- that question can ultimately lead to something rewarding and worthwhile.

5. Make it Stick

If the long-term goal is to create lifelong questioners, then the challenge is to make questioning a habit -- a part of the way one thinks.

When you teach your students to ask good questions, they will be able to better focus on the information they

need, not always what they want. It will make their Internet searches more laser targeted and information more retainable.

When students ask meaningful questions, real student centered learning becomes the norm and they thrive academically.

Note: this article adapted, referenced and copied from <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/help-students-become-better-questioners-warren-berger>



"If it's OK to copy from the Internet, it must be OK to copy from my friend's test, right?"



The Technology Integration Project

Does your technology integration lack motivation and quality? Would you like your students' minds engaged with something meaningful they can relate to? Try a TiP and your students will make a connection between learning and life.

What is it?

TiP stands for Technology Integration Project and is an innovative project based blended learning technique to employ student centered learning that is meaningful, effective, and engaging.

What is Done?

Students learn to use technology tools such as the Chromebook, Docs, proper searching, citing, and more, by creating an oral presentation on a topic of their choice, a topic you have given them, or a cool one such as,

"Create a solution for a problem that exists."

You give them the plan, a timeline, resources, and then say, "Go for it!"

This project is completed all on their own without any help from you and guided by a rubric with specific skill sets. No, they will not fail. Let them be creative and think for themselves and your students will use the skills they already have and learn on their own what they need to succeed.

Here Comes Success!

Now, stand back and watch what happens. Your students will create, they will innovate, they will be engaged to research, use time and project management skills, and present their findings.

During this time, they will also learn from their mistakes and expect excellence from themselves. And

you will have massive one-on-one time to help those struggling students move along at their own ability level. They will be creating a technology integration toolbox from experience they will use again and again for years to come.

Imagine the impact on your students' learning and confidence when you take a TiP and mold it to meet their realistic needs as they use their minds to think and create. A Technology Integration Project can be used in all grades and for all subjects, adapting to realistic ability levels.

Start Today!

Ask David to help you create your own TiP today. Allow your students to make a connection between learning and life, and then expect incredible things!

Find out more at ttcc.lindenUSD.com/tip.



How to Organize Your Google Drive

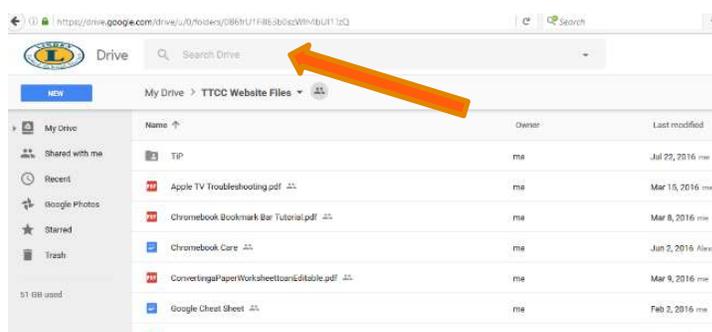
Do you have a messy Google Drive with gobs of files that is driving you nuts? Creating subject folders is a great way to organize these files to find for quicker searching when you really them. Doing so is as easy as 1-2-3-4!

1. Remove the words *Copy of* from ALL of your file names. These are files that people have shared with you and now all show up alphabetically each starting with *Copy of*. It gets very confusing!
2. Create a new folder and name it for a specific topic.
3. Drag and drop all of your files about that topic into this folder.
4. Repeat until all of your files are in specific folders.

That is it. You are now able to find your files better because they are organized by subject and not all in one place!

To keep your newfound sanity, it is best to regularly keep up with this process as you create new files and when ones are shared with you.

Bonus Tip: If you are unsure of the file name you are looking for, but know some of the words inside the document, use the search bar at the top!



Humor on School Test Answers

These are reported to be actual test answers from various schools in the Huntsville, Alabama metropolitan area:

Q: Name the four seasons.

A: Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

Q: How is dew formed?

A: The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.

Q: What guarantees may a mortgage company insist on?

A: If you are buying a house, they will insist you are well endowed.

Q: Name a major disease associated with cigarettes.

A: Premature death.

Q: How can you delay milk turning sour?

A: Keep it in the cow.

Q: What is the fibula?

A: A small lie.

Q: What does "varicose" mean?

A: Nearby.

Q: Give the meaning of the term "Caesarean Section."

A: The caesarean section is a district in Rome.

Q: What is a seizure?

A: A Roman emperor.

Q: What is a terminal illness?

A: When you are sick at the airport.

Q: What does the word "benign" mean?

A: Benign is what you will be after you be eight.

