

District Technology Committee

At the December 13 meeting, three sub-committees were formed to focus on needs of the district. They will meet as sub-committees during January and February 2008. At the March 2008 meeting, all three sub-committees will report their recommendations based on investigations, readings and research in their respective committees.

The sub-committees are:

- Web Filters, Barry Bishop, Chair
 - To define and recommend a process for having sites unblocked.
 - To define and recommend guidelines for having sites unblocked.
 - To define teacher/student accountability and expectations when using digital resources.
- Basic Troubleshooting Guide, Ed Wilson, Chair
 - To provide teachers with an easy-to-use online guide for troubleshooting their laptop
 - To determine content of User's Guide and write specifically for SBISD users
 - To create short tutorial videos to accompany the text in the User's Guide.
- Computers in the Classroom, Sheri Alford, Chair
 - To define and recommend standardized technology for the SBISD classroom at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.
 - To define and make recommendation on a 1:1 initiative in SBISD; i.e., what does this mean and what does this look like. Again, the recommendation may differ for elementary, middle and high.
 - To ensure staff development, training, and support is in place for instructional pedagogy, technology integration, and 21st century skills.

District Elementary Keyboarding

C&I made a strong push to implement an elementary keyboarding plan this year. Ninety-two percent of our elementary campuses have reported a plan for keyboarding in 3rd grade and have implemented the plan. Keyboarding awareness is introduced in Kindergarten and 1st grades using Easy Tech, the district technology applications adoption; teacher-directed keyboarding instruction is taught in 3rd grade using Easy Tech, Type to Learn, or portable keyboards; and keyboarding reinforcement in 4th and 5th grades throughout the curriculum using laptops and desktops—all depending on each campus situation.

Because we do not have standardized access to technology for this program yet, Ed Tech created a site dedicated to support teachers in their keyboarding implementation giving them strategies and different implementations plans depending on access at their campus.

<http://edtech.springbranchisd.com/CurriculumTechnology/Keyboarding/General/tabid/6365/Default.aspx> and

<http://edtech.springbranchisd.com/CurriculumTechnology/Keyboarding/TTL/tabid/4084/Default.aspx>

District Podcasting Grant Update

In October of 2007, seventeen teachers throughout the district applied for and won a podcasting grant, supported by the Educational Technology Department. The goal of the grant is to use these seventeen teachers and their ideas as springboards and testing grounds for podcasting in the district. The seventeen winners **and their podcasting sites are:**

1. **Susan Sisler:** German - MHS -- [Unter vier Augen](#)
2. **Patricia Mennes:** Broadcast - MHS -- [MBC Pony Express](#)
3. **Richard Fanning:** Language Arts - SWHS -- [Book Talk](#)
4. **Jessica Waltman & Sandra Harvey:** Humanities – WAIS -- [Thoughtcasts](#)
5. **Meredith Tolson:** MS Language Arts and Social Studies - WAIS -- [Tolson's Top Ten Books](#)
6. **Cheryl Wegscheid:** MS Science - WAIS -- [Wegschizzle's World](#)
7. **Kathryn Rose:** MS Science - SWMS -- [Sci Kid](#)
8. **Cynthia Tuma & Julie Seeley:** MS Language Arts - LMS -- [Stories to Capture the Imagination](#)
9. **Mary Drawl & Stephanie Walton:** Fine Arts & Broadcast - NBMS -- [KNTV: Focus on Fine Arts](#)
10. **Karen Harrell, Lisa Davis, & Judy Juan:** Library, 2nd & 5th Grades - Rummel Creek - [War of the Words](#)
11. **Sandra Henao:** 2nd Grade - Ridgecrest -- [Energy to the Wise](#)
12. **Terry Herblin:** Library – Thornwood -- [My Pod or Yours?](#)
13. **Linsey Chafin:** 2nd Grade - Memorial Drive -- [Second Grade Scoop](#)
14. **Ann Martin:** 2nd Grade - Hunters Creek -- [New From Second Grade](#)
15. **Noemi Lopez:** 4th Grade - Hunters Creek -- [Book Brag](#)
16. **Bonnie McSpadden:** Music - Pine Shadows -- [Secret Songs and Rhythmic Riddles](#)
17. **Joseph Alvarado:** 2nd Grade - Buffalo Creek -- [Mystery Readers](#)

The grant included the following:

- iPod Nano
- MicroTech portable microphone for the iPod Nano
- Microphone/headphone combo (for podcasting at the computer)
- Podcast hosting service, provided by EdTech
- Training and support for Podcasting, Audacity, WordPress
- In addition to face-to-face training, a podcast tutorial site has been created for these teachers and librarians to help them in the process of publishing their podcasts. It is located at <http://edtech2.springbranchisd.com/podcasting/home.htm>
- Since most of these teachers work throughout the district and have no one else at their school to turn to for support and answers, an online message board/forum has been created. It is located at <http://www.mysbisd.com/forum/>

District Blogging Initiative

Many teachers in the district have expressed an interest in Educational Technology providing support for blogging within the district. To this end, the department has created a community blogging site, located at <http://blog.mysbisd.com/>. Currently one teacher (and CTR) at Northbrook Middle School (Karen Green and Christa Blythe) will run a pilot program where the teacher blogs with her students. Each student in one test class will create and maintain a blog.

The site EdTech has created is in its infancy, but the foundation is one where eventually, literally 1000's of blogs can be created as part of the My SBISD community of blogs. In the works are acceptable use policies and guidelines for students AND teachers who use the site to blog. The pilot is set to begin at the end of January. Educational Technology is looking for the possibility of an elementary and high school teacher who would like to take on the challenge of piloting a program and blogging with his/her students.

Laptop Implementation and Training

Ed Tech has completed the training to accompany the laptop rollout project. We will meet with CRT's from each campus on January 10 for a "train-the-trainer" session. All materials (slide show, digital handouts, and tutorial videos) will be on the Ed Tech website for trainers and participants to refer to during training. This site is not available yet so we cannot provide the link.

Flipchart Curriculum Writing

Ed Tech currently has 11 ACTIVclassroom teachers writing flipchart curriculum to seed the repository for new ACTIVclassroom teachers. They use a checklist for writing to ensure the focus is on content and interactivity engaging learners in the curriculum.

Guidelines for Flipchart Curriculum Writing

REQUIRED:

- Each flipchart must have a title page and a statement of the lesson's objectives. The objective can be on the title page or a separate page of its own.
- Attach the TEKS to the title page using Notes.
- There should be Notes attached to every page of your flipchart. The purpose of Notes is to assist other teachers as to HOW to use your flipchart in a lesson. Be particularly mindful of including instructions to other teachers that explain how to use the particular page during the lesson. Also, explain if it's an interactive page and give a brief description of the interactivity. If appropriate, point out the Actions on the page if they aren't obvious. If there is nothing to highlight or point out on the page, then create a Note and write "No Notes for this page" so that there is no ambiguity as to whether or not additional information or Notes should have been placed on the page but were forgotten.
- Make certain you create a Summary before submitting your flipchart. Indicate in the Summary's title if your flipchart is part of a unit. In the body of the Summary, provide a brief description, the grade level and keywords. Keywords should be single words, not phrases. Do not use a comma-delimited list. Instead, separate each individual word in the keyword list by a "hard return."
- Use engaging and appropriate graphics and images throughout your flipchart, but be mindful of using too many. You don't want to detract from the lesson; you want to

enhance it.

- Your flipchart **MUST** contain interactive pages that actively engage the students.
- Your flipchart should be congruent with your curriculum. Don't add "stuff" unless it is instructionally sound and relates back to the lesson.
- Your flipchart should have at least one instance of formative assessment using ACTIVotes or ACTIVexpressions.

OPTIONAL FEATURES BUT HIGHLY DESIRABLE:

- At least one Action should be created in your flipchart that links to the Internet, a video, or other document where appropriate. If linking to a document, video or other file, make certain you **EMBED** the file in the flipchart; do not simply link to it.
- If appropriate, your flipchart should contain the use of at least one of the Focus Tools - Zoom, Reveal or Spotlight.

Summer 2008, C&I will provide experienced ACTIVclassroom teachers to write flipchart curriculum with curriculum writers in English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Math and will focus on grade levels missing in the Flipchart Repository <http://sbisd-edtech.com/flipcharts/> where there are currently 250 flipcharts lessons.

SBISD Flipchart Repository

The SBISD Flipchart Repository, created in June 2007, began with 7 teachers “seeding” the repository with flipchart curriculum. Since the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year, ACTIVclassroom teachers from throughout the district have contributed exemplary flipcharts to share with their fellow teachers. Consequently, there is now approximately 250 flipcharts that have been uploaded to the repository that cover every core subject area and grade level. At the beginning of 2008, the repository was given a much needed facelift and upgrade. With the new look, the site is much easier to navigate and information is easier to find.

Future goals for the repository:

- Organize all flipcharts by TEKS
- Have at least one flipchart for every core subject area TEK
- Continue to use the repository has a “hub” of information for all ACTIVclassroom teachers in the district by adding to the tutorials and resource sections that are already there, and promoting the use of the repository’s forum to support teacher communication

ACTIVclassroom Training for the Spring 2008 Semester

The EdTech department has created a variety of courses to meet the needs of new and established ACTIVclassroom teachers. The list of courses is below:

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PDLC #	Date	Course	Audience	Time
1331.4790	1/12/2008	ACTIVclassroom-Introductory Training (01/08)	ACTIVclassroom teachers	8:30 - 3:30
1331.4791	1/15/2008 & 1/22/08	ACTIVclassroom-Introductory Training (01/08)	ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 7:00 both days
1331.4792	1/24/2008 & 1/31/08	ACTIVclassroom-Introductory Training (01/08)	ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 7:00 both days
1331.4793	2/11/2008 & 2/18/08	ACTIVclassroom-Introductory Training (02/08)	ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 7:00 both days
1331.4794	2/16/2008	ACTIVclassroom-Introductory Training (02/08)	ACTIVclassroom teachers	8:30 - 3:30
1331.4795	2/20/2008 & 2/27/08	ACTIVclassroom-Introductory Training (02/08)	ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 7:00 both days
1331.4796	3/3/2008 & 3/10/08	ACTIVclassroom-Introductory Training (03/08)	ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 7:00 both days
1331.4797	3/15/2008	ACTIVclassroom-Introductory Training (03/08)	ACTIVclassroom teachers	8:30 - 3:30
1331.4798	3/29/2008	ACTIVclassroom-Introductory Training (03/08)	ACTIVclassroom teachers	8:30 - 3:30
1331.4799	4/5/2008	ACTIVclassroom-Introductory Training (04/08)	ACTIVclassroom teachers	8:30 - 3:30
1331.4800	5/1/2008 & 5/8/08	ACTIVclassroom-Introductory Training (05/08)	ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 7:00 both days
1331.4801	5/3/2008	ACTIVclassroom-Introductory Training (05/08)	ACTIVclassroom teachers	8:30 - 3:30
1331.4802	5/7/2008 & 5/14/08	ACTIVclassroom-Introductory Training (05/08)	ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 7:00 both days
1331.4803	5/17/2008	ACTIVclassroom-Introductory Training (05/08)	ACTIVclassroom teachers	8:30 - 3:30
1401.4804	1/14/2008	ACTIVclassroom- Converting PowerPoints into interactive flipchart lessons	ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 6:00

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1401.4825	1/14/2008	ACTIVclassroom- Elementary Users Group With Karen Adams	Elementary ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 6:00
1401.4826	1/16/2008	ACTIVclassroom- Secondary Users Group with Karen Adams	Secondary ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 6:00
1401.4806	1/22/2008	ACTIVclassroom- Grades 3-5: Teaching an interactive lesson without a pre-made flipchart	ACTIVclassroom teachers in grades 3-5	4:00 - 6:00
1401.4805	1/28/2008	ACTIVclassroom- Elementary: Using Interactive websites with the ACTIVboard	Elementary ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 6:00
1401.4807	1/29/2008	ACTIVclassroom - Secondary: How to create a more interactive flipchart	Secondary ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 6:00
1401.4808	2/7/2008	ACTIVclassroom- Creating and working with containers in ACTIVStudio	ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 6:00
1401.4809	2/11/2008	ACTIVclassroom- Action Objects: Inserting and Embedding Files & Links	ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 6:00
1401.4810	2/19/2008	ACTIVclassroom- Elementary: How to create a more interactive Flipchart	Elementary ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 6:00
1401.4811	2/27/2008	ACTIVclassroom- Layers, stacking and other advanced techniques in ACTIVstudio	ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 6:00
1401.4814	3/3/2008	ACTIVclassroom- Using the Power Tools for Engaging and Interactive Lessons	ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 6:00
1401.4813	3/6/2008	ACTIVclassroom- Converting worksheets into more interactive flipchart lessons	ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 6:00
1401.4812	3/11/2008	ACTIVclassroom- Basic and Creative Uses of the ACTIVvotes	ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 6:00
1401.4815	3/26/2008	ACTIVclassroom- Using what you've already got to create interactive flipchart	ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 6:00

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		lessons		
1401.4816	4/1/2008	ACTIVclassroom- Grades K-2: Teaching an interactive lesson without a pre-made flipchart	ACTIVclassroom teachers in grades K-2	4:00 - 6:00
1401.4817	5/1/2008	ACTIVclassroom- Converting PowerPoints into interactive flipchart lessons	ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 6:00
1401.4824	5/5/2008	ACTIVclassroom- Elementary: How to create a more interactive Flipchart	Elementary ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 6:00
1401.4819	5/6/2008	ACTIVclassroom- Using what you've already got to create interactive flipchart lessons	ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 6:00
1401.4820	5/8/2008	ACTIVclassroom- Action Objects: Inserting and Embedding Files & Links	ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 6:00
1401.4821	5/12/2008	ACTIVclassroom- Creating and working with containers in ACTIVStudio	ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 6:00
1401.4818	5/14/2008	ACTIVclassroom - Secondary: How to create a more interactive flipchart	Secondary ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 6:00
1401.4822	5/20/2008	ACTIVclassroom- Secondary: Using Interactive websites with the ACTIVboard	Secondary ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 6:00
1401.4823	5/22/2008	ACTIVclassroom- Converting worksheets into more interactive flipchart lessons	ACTIVclassroom teachers	4:00 - 6:00

Pilot ACTIVclassroom Survey

Approximately 200 pilot ACTIVclassroom teachers were asked to complete a 20-question survey. The majority of teachers surveyed have been teaching in an ACTIVclassroom since September 2007—only a few months.

As a result of the feedback, Ed Tech trainers met and revised the content of the introductory training and completely restructured the advanced training. Introductory training will continue to be a six hour class; however, advanced will actually be called supplemental training with a variety of topics being covered in two-hour sessions of which the teachers will be required to take three equaling six hours of supplemental training. We think they will like being able to

choose how they spend those supplemental six hours. New content for all courses begin Spring 2008.

Supplemental courses include the following topics targeting elementary and secondary audiences:

- Converting PowerPoints into Interactive Flipchart Lessons
- Teaching an Interactive Lesson without a Pre-Made Flipchart
- Using Interactive Websites with the ACTIVboard
- How to Create a More Interactive Flipchart
- Creating and Working with Containers in ACTIVstudio
- Inserting and Embedding Files and Links
- Layers, Stacking and Other Advanced Techniques in ACTIVstudio
- Using the Power Tools for Engaging and Interactive Lessons
- Converting Worksheets into More Interactive Flipchart Lessons
- Basic and Creative Uses of the ACTIVotes
- Using What You've Already Got to Create Interactive Flipchart Lessons
- Integrating Media Resources into Flipchart Curriculum
- Using District Adopted Resources in Flipchart Curriculum
- Student Assessment using ACTIVotes

Below are the results of the survey:

1. I most often use my ACTIVboard

	Number	%
As a dry erase board	8	9%
As an overhead projector	2	2%
To present slide shows to accommodate my lectures	19	22%
To present flipchart curriculum	54	64%
To show videos	2	2%
Total	85	100%

2. I design flipchart curriculum

	Number	%
Once a week	40	47%
Once every couple weeks	20	24%
Once a month	9	11%
Once a grading period	3	4%
Never — I don't use flipchart curriculum	4	5%
Never — I download flipchart curriculum	9	11%
Total	85	100%

3. I deliver flipchart curriculum

	Number	%
Everyday	31	36%
A couple times a week	32	38%
Once a week	7	8%
Once a month	9	11%
Never	6	7%
Total	85	100%

4. My flipchart curriculum is

	Number	%
Created collaboratively with my team or colleagues	45	53%
Adapted from downloaded flipcharts	30	35%
Downloaded flipcharts without adaptations	5	6%
I don't use flipchart curriculum	5	6%
Total	85	100%

5. My main source of flipchart curriculum is

	Number	%
The Ed Tech Flipchart Repository	5	6%
The Promethean Planet	24	28%
I design my own	52	61%
I don't use flipchart curriculum	4	5%
Total	85	100%

6. My ACTIVotes/CPS are distributed

	Number	%
Everyday	16	19%
Only when I think I will need them	43	51%
Never	9	11%
I don't have ACTIVotes/CPS devices	17	20%
Total	85	100%

7. I think the ACTIVotes/CPS

	Number	%
Are a valuable tool for formative assessment	75	88%
Do not provide feedback of value to me or my students	10	12%
Total	85	100%

8. When using the ACTIVotes/CPS

	Number	%
I reteach based on voting results	50	59%
I do not reteach based on voting results	7	8%
I do not use my voting devices	10	12%
I don't have ACTIVotes/CPS devices	18	21%
Total	85	100%

9. My ACTIVclassroom is mobile (projector on cart and board on stand)

	Number	%
I prefer to keep both mobile	7	8%
I prefer to keep my projector mobile and mount the board	3	4%
I prefer to keep my board mobile and mount the projector	2	2%
I would like to have both mounted	17	20%
This question doesn't apply to me	56	66%
Total	85	100%

10. My ACTIVclassroom is partly mounted (board)

	Number	%
I prefer to keep the board mounted and the projector mobile	6	7%
In addition to having the board mounted, I would also like to mount my projector	32	38%
I would like the board uninstalled and put on a stand	6	7%
This question doesn't apply to me	41	48%
Total	85	100%

11. My ACTIVclassroom is fully mounted (board and projector)

	Number	%
I prefer to keep both the board and the projector mounted	26	31%
I would prefer the board on a stand and the projector on a cart	1	1%
I would prefer to keep the board mounted and the projector put on a cart	1	1%
This question does not apply to me	57	67%
Total	85	100%

12. After teaching in my ACTIVclassroom for one semester

	Number	%
I can't imagine teaching any other way	79	93%
I wish you would come get all of this stuff out of my classroom	6	7%
Total	85	100%

13. In my ACTIVclassroom

	Number	%
Only I interact with the flipchart curriculum	5	6%
My students interact with the flipchart curriculum	70	82%
I don't use flipchart curriculum, but I use the board to write on while I explain a new concept	1	1%
I don't use flipchart curriculum but I use the board for presentations to accommodate my lectures and to show videos	9	11%
Total	85	100%

14. I have changed my pedagogical practices as a result of teaching in an ACTIVclassroom

	Number	%
Yes	61	72%
No	24	28%
Total	85	100%

15. The ACTIVinstruction Introduction session prepared me to create basic flipchart curriculum

	Number	%
Agree	69	81%
Disagree	16	19%
Total	85	100%

16. The ACTIVinstruction Advanced session helped me to prepare more effective flipchart curriculum

	Number	%
Agree	64	75%
Disagree	21	25%
Total	85	100%

17. I attend the Users Groups and find them helpful

	Number	%
Agree	40	47%
Disagree	2	2%
I don't attend Users Groups	43	51%
Total	85	100%

18. The Users Groups should be offered

	Number	%
Every week at different locations	12	14%
Every week at the same location	6	7%
Every month at different locations	35	41%
Every month in the same location	32	38%
Total	85	100%

19. As a result of designing and delivering instruction in an ACTIVclassroom for the past few months, I believe there is

	Number	%
Increased student understanding	6	7%
Improved student achievement	2	2%
More engaged learning	28	33%
All of the above	40	47%
None of the above	9	11%
Total	85	100%

20. I take my laptop home

	Number	%
Every night	36	42%
One or two times a week	25	29%
One or two times a month	9	11%
Never	15	18%
Total	85	100%

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