

TECH"knowledge"Y Bulletin

Helping teachers integrate technology into everyday teaching

10 "FREE" Class Rewards

- Sit at the teacher's desk.
- Get a drink whenever you want.
- Have lunch with your favorite person.
- Have lunch with the principal.
- Join another class for indoor recess.
- Have the teacher phone parents to tell them what a great kid you are.
- Draw on the board.
- Be first in line.
- Do only half an assignment.



Is Spring Fever Time

Once again, we can enjoy the colorful signs of spring, as winter hands over its mittens for the raincoat of spring's arrival. As April approaches, we know it is also time for standardized testing and yes, "Spring Fever." Instead of trying to fight the phenomenon (probably in vain), try spending a little extra time planning lessons that will make class enjoyable for you and your students. Here are some suggestions to consider:

1. Consider using multimedia in your presentations to engage student interest. Music, art, video clips... whatever your students enjoy can be used to snag their attention.

United Streaming is a great classroom resource.

2. Offer tangible rewards to encourage students to pay attention when they may otherwise be distracted.
3. Present a silly fact each day for your students to think about, dispute, talk about, research, write about, and enjoy. See <http://www.amusingfacts.com>
4. Challenge your students to beat their personal best on assignments.
5. Plan review sessions based on popular games. You can find

lots of PPT game templates at http://projects.coe.uga.edu/trieber/wild/search/PPT_search_results.asp

Tip of the Month

Searching for a specific word on a webpage or in a Word document or in a PowerPoint or practically any application? There is an easy way.

1. **CTRL + F** or Edit/Find in this page.
2. **Type the word** you are looking for in the "For what" box and click **Find Next**.
3. The first instance of the word you typed will be highlighted.
4. Press Enter again and the next instance will be highlighted.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
"Free" Class Rewards	1
Classroom Resources	2-3
Web Gem	3
Read the Directions	4
Critical Thinking	4
Creative Writing	4
Educator Discounts	4
NBC News Archives	4

"The teachers who are themselves engaged in learning and more likely to engage their students!"

April Fools Day History

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/aprilfools1.html>

National Poetry Month

Instant Poetry Forms

<http://ettcweb.lrk12.nj.us/forms/newpoem.htm>

More than sixty writing activities in an interactive format. Students type what they would like to write, then have the option of printing their work!

30 Days of Poetry

http://www.msrogers.com/English2/poetry/30_days_of_poetry.htm

Lessons on writing many forms of poetry with examples.

Poetry Almanac

<http://www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/68>

Poetry themes and articles, links to find a poet, poems, and more. "365 days' worth of poetry highlights, activities, ideas, and history"

Language Arts Classroom Resources

WORKOUT WITH DAILY SPELLING:

<http://www.zdaily.com/words.shtml>

Visit this online site to encourage ongoing vocabulary and spelling skills for your students. Three challenging new words are offered each day - great practice for any standardized tests or SATs.

EASY FORMAT BOOK REPORT:

<http://www.everydayteaching.com/Forms/Student/EasyFormatBookReport.pdf>

If you don't have time to require

a full-out book report or literature essay, then simply print out these forms to review the important literary elements in assigned student readings.

PAUSE FOR PUNCTUATION:

http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20080221thursday.html?searchpv=learning_lessons

Punctuation can stump a lot of people, students and teachers alike.



"Detail makes the difference between boring and terrific writing. It's the difference between a pencil sketch and a lush oil painting. As a writer, words are your paint. Use all the colors."

Rhys Alexander

ILLUSTRATE A WORD:

<http://www.kid-at-art.com/htdoc/lesson70.htm>

Combine art and English with this lesson plan, where students will choose a word that has a particularly apt meaning that would

show well through illustration; great examples are included here to inspire your students.

Social Studies Classroom Resources

GOVERNMENT SITES ONLINE

<http://www.globalcomputing.com/states.html>

Do you know how to access the United States government online? Do you remember using the "blue

pages" in the phone book to find government services in your area? This site will help you find your local, state and national government online.

A TEST-TAKERS VOCABULARY FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

<http://teachingtoday.glencoe.com/howtoarticles/a-test-takers-vocabulary-for-social-studies>

A list of technical and

academic vocabulary words to improve student performance on standardized tests.

Murphy's "Technology" Law:

"Nothing is as easy as it looks. Everything thing takes longer than you expect. And if anything can go wrong, it will, at the worst possible moment."

Math Classroom Resources

INTERACTIVE MATHEMATICS:

<http://www.learnalberta.ca/Launch.aspx?content=%2fcontent%2fmesg%2fhtml%2fmath6web%2fmath6shell.html>

Math with a spy theme - how much fun is that? All key math concepts are covered here: deci-

mals, ratios, fractions, mixed numbers, integers, rounding, area, perimeter, etc.



Science Classroom Resources

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)

<http://science.education.nih.gov/>

...a large collection of lesson plans and resources specifically intended for teachers in grades K-12.

AIRNOW

<http://airnow.gov/>

What's the quality of air like - right now - in your very own community? Get up-to-the-minute resources and feedback on air quality with this online tool.

TODAY'S HEADLINES

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/>

Links to the latest in science research news

ASTRONOMY

PICTURE OF THE DAY

<http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html>

Discover the cosmos!

TEACHER: Ellen, give me a sentence starting with "I."

ELLEN: I is...

TEACHER: No, Ellen. Always say, "I am."

ELLEN: All right... "I am the ninth letter of the alphabet."



"I used a \$1,200 computer, a \$300 color printer, and a \$400 word-processing program— and I still got a D on my research paper."

Interactivities

MIND READER

http://www.sandlotscience.com/Games/Mind_Reader.htm

Students will love these numerical tricks; follow the directions online here for a wee bit of math magic.

ONLINE SUDOKU

<http://www.counton.org/sudoku/>

If your students are crazy about Sudoku, have them try this online and interactive version.

THESAURUS

TANGLE

<http://www.afunzone.com/thesaurustangle.htm>

Race against the clock as you try to untangle the synonyms!

Teaching Tools

HANDY ONLINE TIMER

<http://www.internet4classrooms.com/timer.htm>

ANALOGY OF THE DAY

<http://www.factmonster.com/analogies>

Hints and answers are provided.

INTERACTIVE BULLETIN BOARDS FOR SECONDARY MATH

<http://faculty.kutztown.edu/schaeffe/BulletinBoards/bbs.html>



BRAIN BOOSTERS

<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/brainboosters/>

CLASSROOM

CALENDARS

<http://www.mrsperkins.com/testing.htm>

Calendars in .doc format so that you can write in them and edit events.



High gas prices got you down?

Find the lowest gas prices near you with Mapquest Gas Prices

<http://gasprices.mapquest.com/>

April

April 1– April Fool's Day

April 14-18– TCAP Testing



April is...

[Alcohol and Drug Awareness Month](#)

[Keep America Beautiful Month](#)

[Mathematics Education Month](#)

[National Autism Awareness Month](#)

[National Youth Sports Safety Month](#)

*great site for PE teachers

[School Library Media Month](#)

TEST PREP RESOURCES

[Read the Directions! Exercise](#)

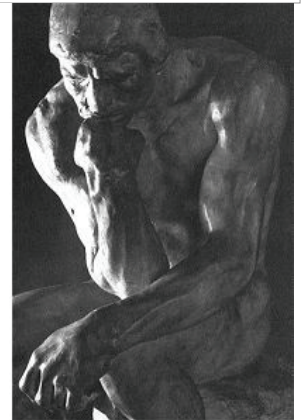


http://teachingtoday.glencoe.com/userfiles/file/read_the_directionsPDF.pdf

Students taking tests regularly skip over directions only to find they have misunderstood what they were being asked to do, and hence, performed poorly on the test. This exercise is designed to give them practice in reading test directions and locating key words. Regardless of the subject you teach, this exercise should prove useful for improving test-taking skills.

Promote Critical Thinking

Focus students on specific information by opening class with a question of the day. Distribute large index cards to students and have them write the question of the day on the front. During reading, students should note on the back of the card information useful to responding to the question, as well as the page and paragraph number where the information was uncovered. Close the class period with a five-minute writing session in which students construct a paragraph answering the question of the day with the information from the back of the card. Collect the responses and read each aloud, anonymously. Have the class determine whether each response answers the question of the day.



 NBC NEWS



Bring the World To Your Classroom with Video from NBC News

Educators can access the NBC NEWS Archives on Demand **FREE** until May 31 by registering at www.hotchalk.com/SchNBC.



“Educator Discounts”

Barnes & Noble offers 20% off

purchases: http://img.sparknotes.com/content/educators/pdf/edu_discount.pdf

Verizon Wireless offers discounts on monthly phone plans to state employees. See your local provider.



Creative Writing Ideas...

WHAT IF?

Have you ever thought it would be fun to live in an entirely different house? How about a windmill? A lighthouse? Or a forest ranger cabin? A houseboat? Choose one of these or another type of alternative housing, and state why you would like to try living there, imagining what it would be like.

HOLD EVERYTHING

Imagine today that you could change everything with the snap of your fingers. Who would you like to change places with? A rock star? A film actor? A politician? Select someone with whom you would swap a day in your life, and tell us why, and what you expect your life would be like for that day.