Technology Update

Bedford's Global Explorers

Fifth grade students at Bedford's Monroe Road Elementary School are participating in a very unique experience entitled "Global Explorers." Teacher Cheryl Lykowski says "Through observation and classroom discussions, I have come to the conclusion that my students lack understanding and awareness of our global world. Every day our world is becoming flatter and the possibility for connection and collaboration are becoming easier than in previous years. It is now possible for more people to collaborate and compete in real time on all different types of projects with people from different corners of the world. There is a need in today's educational system to prepare our students for success in the global world."

Mrs. Lykowski's and Mrs. Werth's students are collaborating with students from Bucaramanga, Colombia through the creation of a wiki and podcasting. Mrs.

GLOBAL EXPLORERS
Where students are making the global connection

Lykowski made this global connection through a professor at Lourdes College. The director of the school in Columbia was formerly a graduate student of Mrs. Lykowski's professor. You can check in on the progress of their project for yourself! Visit the Global Explorers' wiki at:
http://globalexplorers.wikispaces.com

You'll see pictures of the classrooms at MRE and Colombia, and hear podcasts recorded by the students to introduce themselves. The MRE students recently promoted their project in Lansing at the AT&T/MACUL Technology Showcase. They met Kathy Angerer and other members of the Michigan Legislature, and spoke with other teachers and students from across the state.

How exciting to think that students from Monroe County are connecting, collaborating, and building relationships with students from other cultures!

Tip of the Month: Windows Taskbar
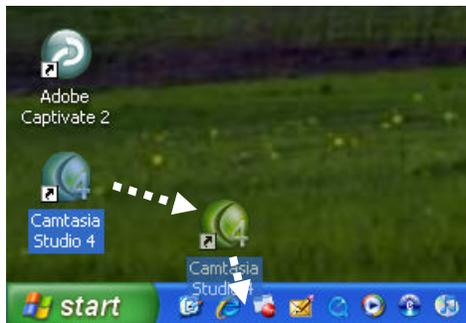
Move your most frequently used program icons to the Windows Taskbar, the blue bar at the bottom of the screen next to the Start button.
Use your mouse to "drag" the icon to where you would like it to go on the taskbar. Now your program icons are always visible, even when other windows are open on screen. You can delete the original icon to clean up a crowded or cluttered desktop.

Half-day technology workshops announced

Coming up in November and December at MCISD are two half-day technology workshops related to Language Arts and Math.

Teachers of grades 4 through 6 can enhance their students´ Young Authors experience through Digital Storytelling. Computers, digital cameras and scanners have made it possible for teachers and students in all grades to create and preserve their own personal stories and to share those stories with a world-wide audience. Teachers and students will be encouraged to share their digital stories with other classrooms participating in the Young Authors' Conference. This workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, November 14 from 12 noon to 3:15 PM.

The math workshop is entitled Inspire Students to Interpret Data and will be held on Thursday, December 6 from 3:15 PM to 6:30 PM. This session will give middle school and high school teachers the opportunity to discover the power of InspireData software. Each teacher will receive a sample copy of InspireData which includes more than 50 standards-based databases and examples in science, mathematics, and social studies. This software allows students to process large amounts of information, both numerical and textual, in a visual manner. It will also be a great review tool for high school ACT practice.

You may register for either workshop on Coursewhere.

Website of the month: K-12 Online Conference

David Warlick is one of the keynote speakers at the 2007 Countywide In-service on November 1st. But he is also the keynote speaker for the 2007 K-12 Online Conference. You can attend this conference "virtually" any time day or night. All sessions are recorded, so if you can't attend at the designated time you can watch or listen to it later.

This conference focuses primarily on the use of Web 2.0 tools in the K-12 classroom such as blogs, wikis, and podcasts. But there are plenty of sessions on other topics like using cell phones in the classroom, Moodle, collaborative concept mapping and many others.

The strands of the online conference include: Classroom 2.0, New Tools, Professional Learning Networks, and Obstacles to Opportunities. Presenters include well known and respected bloggers and podcasters from around the world including Clarence Fischer from Canada, and Jeff Utecht from Shanghai, China. Many of the presenters have spoken at state and national technology conferences like MACUL and NECC.

The conference begins with Mr. Warlick's keynote on Monday, October 8 at 7 PM, and ends on Saturday, October 27. But remember, you can replay any session at any time or even download it to your own computer!

You can see all of the 2006 conference presentations at: **http://k12onlineconference.org/docs/k12online06-agenda.html** or visit this year's conference site: **http://k12onlineconference.org**

October 15-19 & October 22-26, 2007
preconference keynote October 8-12

Breaking free of traditional conferences, the
K-12 Online Conference: Playing with Boundaries
provides educators with an engaging, ongoing learning experience without time constraints. This progressive conference will engage educators and administrators worldwide in professional dialogue centered around 21st Century learning.

Strands & Keynotes
Over 40 downloadable sessions

David Warlick
Preconference Keynote (Oct. 8-12)

Clarence Fisher
Classroom 2.0

Derek Wenmoth
Personal Learning Networks

Alan Levine, Brian Lamb, D'Arcy Norman
New Tools

Brian Crosby
Obstacles to Opportunities

Participate at
www.k12onlineconference.org