

INSTRUCTIONAL TECH NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back! I hope the summer was restful and rejuvenating for you.

It was a busy summer for us. We had multiple sessions of training and your colleagues created great projects that are available for all of you. They are all available online off the instructional technology web page. The address for the web page is always on the last

page of the newsletter. The projects are found under the project tab. They are web projects and are under Summer 2009.

We will once again be doing support group. However, there will be a change this year. Due to the elementary professional development on Wednesdays, we will be moving support group to Tuesdays. It will once again be

from 3:30 til 7PM.

We usually don't start until October because folks are so busy in September. However, we are always available. If you would like to attend just send us an email and we will be there!

Again, here is to a great year for all of us!

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BACK TO SCHOOL CLIPART

We always have requests for clip art and pictures teachers can use in the classroom. Microsoft has put together a great back to school collection

for you to use. They are divided by subject, classroom, extra-curricular, and tools to use. There are copies of report templates, periodic ta-

bles and more things than you can imagine. The best part is, it's all free!

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/clipart/FX103789781033.aspx>

MULTIPLICATION GAMES

There are some things that you can only learn by doing and practicing. Multiplication is one of those. Fortunately, it can be much more fun than just rote repetition. Here is a list of multiplication games the students can play and use to practice.

This site has lessons and then practice. A nice way to have students to work independently. There are also worksheet here.

http://www.dositey.com/2008/index.php?page=free_activities&sub=34&subsub=m&sub_3=multi

This is a cool drag and drop game. They have

various levels so the students can practice each number family.

http://www.helpingwithmath.com/by_subject/multiplication/mul_games.htm

This site begins at the beginning explaining the concept behind multiplication. It then moves up and gets more complicated.

<http://www.kidsnumbers.com/multiplication.php>

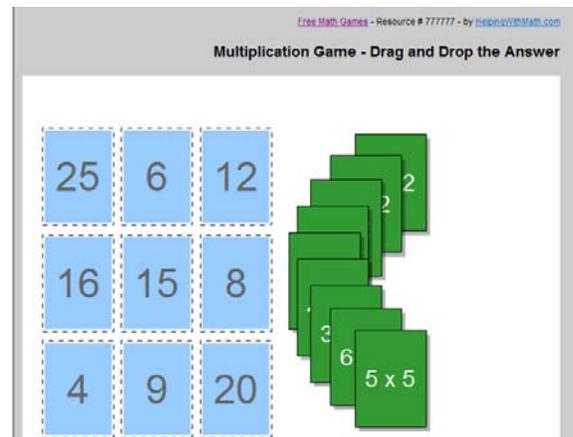
Cute games. The students have to answer fast enough to keep the ants from getting their food.

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

[interactive_games.htm](http://www.mrnussbaum.com/multiplication.htm)

This site has four types of activities; worksheets, flash cards, drag and drop games and timed activities.

<http://www.mrnussbaum.com/multiplication.htm>



FUN SCIENCE STUFF

To help stem the tide of apathy toward science and make it more engaging and relevant for students, Tabula Digita, developer of the DimensionM series of educational video games for math, has releasing a new immersive online game series for science. Called "The League of Scientists," the series is being offered for free to students in grades three through five. It allows stu-

dents to compete against each other in a series of multi-player games, constructed around a standards-based science curriculum.

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

WeChooseTheMoon.org is a new web site from the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum that

aims to inspire members of the Internet Generation 40 years after the first lunar landing. The web site launched on July 16, recreating the Apollo 11 mission online in real time on the 40th anniversary of this historic event <http://wechoosethemoon.org/>

Who doesn't know Bill Nye? <http://www.billnye.com/>

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In a Digital Future, Textbooks Are History

By [TAMAR LEWIN](#)

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/09/education/09textbook.html?_r=1&sq=digital%20future&st=cse&scp=1&pagewanted=print

(I edited this article and cut out portions to fit. For the entire article click on the link)

Textbooks have not gone the way of the scroll yet, but many educators say that it will not be long before they are replaced by digital versions — or supplanted altogether by lessons assembled from the wealth of free courseware, educational games, videos and projects on the Web.

“Kids are wired differently these days,” said Sheryl R. Abshire, chief technology officer for the [Calcasieu Parish school system](#) in Lake Charles, La. “They’re digitally nimble. They multitask, transpose and extrapolate. And they think of knowledge as infinite. “They don’t engage with textbooks that are finite, linear and rote,” Dr. Abshire continued. “Teachers need digital resources to find those documents, those blogs, those wikis that get them beyond the plain vanilla curriculum in the textbooks.”

With California in dire straits, the governor hopes free textbooks could save hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

And given that students already get so much information from the Internet, iPods and [Twitter](#) feeds, he said, digital texts could save them from lugging around “antiquated, heavy, expensive textbooks.”

Many educators expect that digital textbooks and online courses will start small, perhaps for those who want to study a subject they cannot fit into their school schedule or for those who need a few more credits to graduate.

Although California education authorities are reviewing 20 open-source high school math and science texts to make sure they meet California’s exacting academic standards in time for use this fall — and will announce this week which ones meet state standards — quick adoption is unlikely.

“I want our teachers to have the best materials available, and with digital textbooks, we could see the best lessons taught by the most dynamic teachers,” said John A. Roach, superintendent of the Carlsbad, Calif., schools. “But they’re not going to replace paper texts right away.”

Most of the digital texts submitted for review in California came from a nonprofit group, [CK-12 Founda-](#)

[tion](#), that develops free “flexbooks” that can be customized to meet state standards, and added to by teachers. Its physics flexbook, a Web-based, open-content compilation, was introduced in Virginia in March.

“The good part of our flexbooks is that they can be anything you want,” said Neeru Khosla, a founder of the group. “You can use them online, you can download them onto a disk, you can print them, you can customize them, you can embed video. When people get over the mind-set issue, they’ll see that there’s no reason to pay \$100 a pop for a textbook, when you can have the content you want free.”

Around the world, hundreds of universities, including [M.I.T.](#) and [King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals](#) in Saudi Arabia, now use and share open-source courses. [Connexions](#), a [Rice University](#) nonprofit organization devoted to open-source learning, submitted an algebra text to California.

“There’s a lot of stalled purchasing and decision making right now,” said Mark Schneiderman, director of federal education policy at the [Software & Information Industry Association](#). “But it’s going to happen.”

“We should be bracing ourselves for way more interactive, way more engaging videos, activities and games,” said Marina Leight of the Center for Digital Education, which promotes digital education through surveys, publications and meetings.

“We’ve mapped out our state standards,” Mr. Donaldson said, “and our teachers have identified whatever resources they feel best covers them, whether it’s a project they created themselves or an interesting site on the Internet. What they don’t do, generally, is take chapters from textbooks.”

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BACK TO SCHOOL RESOURCES

Clip Art

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/clipart/FX103789781033.aspx>

<http://classroomclipart.com/>

Classroom Set up Ideas

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3907>

Classroom Management Ideas

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=7552>

<http://www.theteachersguide.com/ClassManagement.htm>

Classroom Organization

<http://www.proteacher.com/030003.shtml>

http://www.internet4classrooms.com/classroom_organization.htm

This site has stuff for kids and teachers. I could not believe the wide array of resources.

<http://www.hhmi.org/coolscience/>

How stuff works goes beyond science. As I write this one of the features is how PTSD works. But there are also articles on mechanics.

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

Human Anatomy online has each layer and system. There are great pictures to use with students.

<http://www.innerbody.com/html/body.html>

Back to School Resources Continued

First Day of School of ideas

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3340>

<http://www.suelebeau.com/firstday.htm>

<http://www.proteacher.com/030005.shtml>
[tp://tln.typepad.com/middleweb/2009/08/first-day-of-school-ideas.html](http://tln.typepad.com/middleweb/2009/08/first-day-of-school-ideas.html)

Bulletin Board Ideas

<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/schrockguide/bulletin/index.html>

<http://www.theteacherscorner.net/bulletinboards/>

<http://www.teachervision.fen.com/bulletin-board/curriculum-planning/6515.html>

<http://www.teach-nology.com/teachers/bulletin/>

<http://www.proteacher.com/030004.shtml>

http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/curr273.shtml