



Pathway to the Future

Technology Services Bulletin

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*"Good teachers can't be replaced by tech. What tech does is allow teachers to spend more time focusing on their learners & building those relationships."
– Alice Keeler*

From the Director

This is not easy for a man to admit, but I've noticed that as I get older, more videos on the internet cause me to tear up. [This video](#) from Soul Pancake (think Kid History) has that effect on me, even after watching it several times. Nicely played Soul Pancake. Nicely played. In the video, two teams of students were competing in an academic challenge. A curtain separated the two teams so they could not see each other. They could use any of the materials on their table to assist them. In the first round, they demonstrated identical knowledge. In round two, one team received encyclopedias and the other received laptops. After each question, the encyclopedia team felt disheartened by the other team's better performance. They were doing their best, but it was not good enough. After they pulled back the curtain, both teams realized how the deck was stacked against the team without technology.

While the intent of the video is clearly to address the gap in home access to the internet, which is an important issue, it struck me that the video also shows what happens when we do not provide students with the opportunity to use technology in their classrooms. The deeper learning with the 4 Cs that comes from well-presented technology infused lessons is an important part of preparing students for the 21st century. Lessons reaching the Modification and Redefinition end of the SAMR model provide unique opportunities for students learn essential content. Our students will remember those magical moments. They need our best efforts, every day. Thank you for all that you do! As the video reminds us, "Every child should have the same opportunities."

CUE Rock Star Benefit Camp



What would you pay for two days of great professional development in a beautiful location, as well as the opportunity to help educator victims of the NorCal fires? How about \$179? The [CUE Rock Star Benefit Camp](#) is February 10-11, 2018 in Napa. There is still time to [register](#) for this great event. All of the proceeds will assist educators displaced by the fires. It includes great hands-on, 'make it, take it' sessions, lunch, beverages and an ice cream social each day. You can't find better technology professional development than a CUE Rock Star Camp.

Being Cybersecure at Home



The bad guys aren't only after your work computers and information. The January 2018 edition of the [OUCH! Newsletter](#) is about making your home cybersecure. This issue addresses protecting your wireless network, your devices, your passwords and the importance of backing up your data.

*"If we marry educational technology with quality, enriching content, that's a circle of win."
– Levar Burton*

Berryessa Technology Extravaganza "B Tech E"



The first annual Berryessa Technology Extravaganza or "B Tech E" will be held on Saturday, March 10, 2018 at Summerdale Elementary from 8:30am-1:00pm. The free, voluntary event will provide an opportunity for district teachers and staff to receive valuable training in technology, have collegial discussions, and interact with district vendors of technology products and services. It will include a keynote, breakout sessions, vendor tables, door prizes and a lunch. Please [register](#) so we know how many people to expect. Be sure to let us know if you're interested in leading a breakout session!

Your Cell Phone as an Instructional Tool



Frequently, we tell students to put their cell phones away during class. [This post](#) from Peter Paccone on KQED.org really made me think about whether a cell phone could be an instructional tool. In his post, he shares a number of examples of how he used his cell phone during class to connect his students to experts and even those involved in historical events. For example, his class talked to G. Gordon Liddy about Watergate and Norma McCorvey about *Roe v. Wade*.

Worst Preso Ever Lesson



CUE Rock Star Jon Corippo created a great lesson he calls, "[The Worst Preso Ever](#)" and rightly so. Watch the video to hear him explain it. It's a great way to engage students in a fun and fast lesson that jump starts their presentation skills and builds collaboration. You can use any presentation platform for this lesson. He also shared the American Idol aspects of the lesson and an Iron Chef presentation strategy described in another video.

Tech Tools for Engagement



Last week was the Future of Education Technology #FETC conference. One of the popular sessions was [Tech Tools for Engagement](#), presented by Thomas C. Murray, the Director of Innovation for Future Ready Schools. He shared a curated list of tech tools with the world so that the learning wasn't limited to the conference. While I was familiar with some of the resources listed, I was surprised by how many I didn't recognize. This looks like a great place to go when you're looking for a new tool to try. The tools are organized within 28 categories. To give you a sense of the scope, there are 42 tools in the formative assessment category alone.

Monthly Technology Training



Our department offers monthly training at the DO on the second Wednesday from 3:30pm-4:30pm. Every district employee is welcome! See topics and [signup here](#).

Sharing Technology Resources

Please visit the Technology Services [department blog](#). New instructional resources and tips are added there daily. If you have something you want to share, let us know! You can also see the blog posts by [following us on Twitter!](#) The [archives](#) of this newsletter are available on our web site. Follow BUSD on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter!](#) Follow Dr. Fuentes on [Twitter!](#) Our HR department is now on [Twitter!](#)