



Pathway to the Future

Technology Services Bulletin

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*"Our students don't come to school saying, 'Hey, I think I'll use technology today!' They just use it because it's like an appendage that they grew up with. We should stop using it as if it's an add-on."
– Peter DeWitt*

From the Director

Goodbye Google Apps for Education! We mostly called you by your nickname, GAFE. We're holding back tears because you left us when you were so young, only 10 years old. Although technology years are probably more like dog years, so maybe you lived a long life. Welcome to your offspring, [G Suite for Education](#)! We can't wait to get to know you.

Perhaps, I'm being overly dramatic. My point is that Google has changed the name of the product formerly known as GAFE to G Suite for Education. Not much has changed so far beyond the name. We still have access to all the great tools and they're promising to add more collaborative features moving forward.

I can't let this post end without a very enthusiastic plug for the product now known as G Suite Training (formerly Synergys). It provides just-in-time professional development on using the various apps. If you're using the Chrome browser and have the [extension](#) installed, when you're in a G Suite app like docs or sheets, up in the upper right-hand corner you'll see the "Rainbow Question Mark" icon. Just click on that to see short training videos about that app. Each video is 1-3 minutes and a great way to learn about features you haven't used before. Please give it a try!

National Cyber Security Awareness Month



October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month. Most people think Cyber Security is about protecting politicians' emails from foreign hackers, but it's actually something that affects all of us. There are things everyone can do to keep themselves secure in their use of technology. Take a look at the [ID Theft, Fraud & Victims of Cybercrime](#) page for information on what to do if you're affected.

New District Website



On Monday, October 17th, we updated the [District website](#) with a new mobile device friendly look and feel. We're still working on cleaning out old content and making it easier to navigate, but the feedback so far has been very positive. We're happy to see those clip art kids finally disappear from our pages. The front page features a prominent slider of rotating pictures. If you have an event or activity at your school that would make a nice picture in the slider, please let us know. We just need to make sure students in the pictures have media releases on file.

We're working with schools to get their websites updated as well. We hope to have all of them new and fresh by January 2017. We're investigating a tool that will scan our sites for old content and spelling errors to make our sites look more professional.

"Don't let innovation become another buzzword with no substance in education. Let it be the change we need." – Bob Dillon

Thinking of Flipping Your Classroom?



[Udemy](#), the online training provider is now offering a course called "[Flipped Learning Certification: Level One](#)", the first of three planned courses on the subject. At \$70 (\$19 until 10/26), the course might be a good resource for someone thinking about flipping their classroom. The course has great ratings, 4.8/5.0, and the comments from the participants are all very positive. It includes 9 units with about 6.5 hours of video and 9 quizzes. In looking at this course, I noticed there are other courses on Udemy that might be of interest including [Coding for Kids](#), [Blended Learning](#), and [Teaching with Technology](#).

Short, Engaging Videos Boost Student Engagement



[Blended Learning research](#) by OpenEd, an ACT company, looked at the views of 500,000 videos by K-12 students. They found that older students tended to watch a greater percentage of the video. They found some videos that have engaging delivery are watched 50% longer than the less engaging delivery videos. They also compared the completion of online quizzes among a variety of learning platforms and Google Classroom was the clear winner. Google Classroom users had higher rates of quiz assignment and quiz completion than other learning management systems.

Do You Have Creative Middle School Students?



The CoSN [Digital Equity Student Video Challenge](#) is accepting videos from 6-12th grade students or groups of students through January 19, 2017. The video can be a Public Service Announcement up to 1-minute in length or a Mini Documentary up to 4-minutes in length focused on Digital Equity. Digital Equity addresses the digital divide in Internet access for school-age children at home.

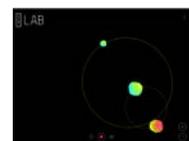
Berryessa Ed-Tech Professional Development



Pathway to the Future

Martha Campos is doing afternoon (3:30pm-5:00pm) Ed-Tech professional development sessions in the Mac lab at Piedmont (Rm 33). Martha is excited about having a dedicated, well equipped space for these hands-on sessions. The [list of classes](#) is available. Classes include Google Apps, Hapara Workspace, Blogger, Edmodo, EDPuzzle, Google Classroom, Chromebook Overview and much more! [Register today!](#)

Engaging Online Activities for Science



The National Science and Technology Medals Foundation (NSTMF)'s website, "[The Lab](#)" has three activities for students to explore in the areas of gravity, sound and image processing. The gravity lab (shown at left) lets students create celestial bodies of varying sizes and flick them around to see how they interact. As things happen, pop-ups explain how that situation works in real celestial bodies. It's a very engaging tool and provides an interesting way to look at how various bodies of different masses affect the orbits of other objects.

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](#) or [Twitter!](#)