



Florida Digital Educator Program

A statewide integration initiative

Special points of interest:

- Absenteeism
- Charter & Private schools
- iTunes & mp3 players
- **Best Of eXample**

Mijana Lockard

Absenteeism

As a part of the FDEP/EETT grant, both districts will analyze whether technology integration has an effect on absenteeism. The Florida Digital Educators in Polk and Osceola were asked this question, "Do you think technology integration increases attendance in your classroom?" The responses ranged from a definite impact to no correlation. These are a few samples of what the teachers had to say.

"I can see a great difference in my attendance this year because of technology! If my students are absent they get a email from the class telling them what they missed. We send an absent student email just like the absent student letter from LFS, it is just an email. Students will also send me emails asking to move things especially technology assignments if they know

ahead of time they will be out."

Brandon Shivers

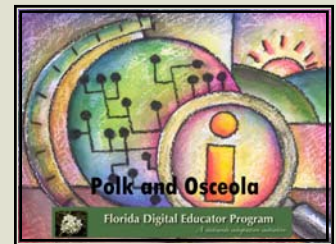
"Each day the students in my technology classes are actively engaged in various activities that utilize some type of software application. I believe that attendance in my technology classes has increased as a direct result of these technology based activities."

Chris Pryor

"I have not seen a change in student attendance since I have incorporated more technology in class lessons. But on the other hand I feel my students are attending more to whole group lessons. (staying in their seat, looking at the board, and actively participating at their level). I serve my students in a self-contained classroom at a Learning Center Environment.."

Madonna Peace

Karen C. Seddon



"I would say I have not noticed that much of a difference in the overall attendance of students. However, I will say that student attendance is usually very good on those days when students know lessons will be done using technology."

Kyle McDannald

"This is hard to measure in the first grade. I do feel the students are more engaged in the lessons when technology is used. But as far as attendance, first graders are typically good about coming to school but are out for being sick or the parent has chosen not to bring them."

Stacey Poole



Sherry Black, McKeel Elementary Academy *"Using iMacs with dual processors allows me to teach the students in a both Windows and Mac. We are piloting a program to integrate 5th grade science by having the students produce a project based on what they learned in class."*



Maura Cox, St. Thomas Aquinas, is a first grade teacher with 32 students! That doesn't stop her from using technology. Her students look forward to her lessons when she uses her grant projector and shows everything *"on the screen!"*

Charter and Private Schools

Did you know that we have many private and charter schools that are a part of the Florida Digital Educator Program in Polk and Osceola? The teachers from charter schools in Polk County are: Annette Hartle - **Compass Charter**, Josh Gompper and Diamond Kovalcin at **Discovery Academy**, Liz

Stevens and Charlotte Weis at **Janie Howard Wilson Elementary**, Justin Smith, **McKeel Academy**, Sherry Black and Sarah Thompkins at **McKeel Elementary**, Heather Crosser and Charlene Mahon at **South McKeel Elementary**. The private school teachers in Polk include: Marcy Boatner at **St. Joseph's** (Lakeland) and

Osceola private and charter school Florida Digital Educators include: Paul Surko and Ralph Barrett at **New Dimensions High School**, Javier Cabrera at **Four Corners Charter**, Bob Richardson - **Kissimmee Charter**, Maria Ochoa, **Holy Redeemer** and Maura Cox at **St. Thomas Aquinas**.

Mijana Lockard, Lincoln Avenue Academy Magnet, Polk County

A very contagious type of technology is happening at Lincoln Avenue Academy. Mijana Lockard has the teachers at Lincoln all jazzed about Project Based Learning through Oracle's Think.com initiative. Over 30 teachers have signed up to commit to 60 hours of training on learning projects, creating personal web pages, discussing with global audiences and training modules all in a protected and FREE environment provide by the Oracle Education Foundation. Think.com connects schools, teachers, and students from around the world to collaborate on projects, share experiences and build knowledge together. Teachers are learning to integrate project learning into their curriculum, enabling students to develop critical skills for life and work in the 21st century. Teachers and students build protected web pages with simple publishing tools to share the learning experience with other teachers and students across the world.

Thoughtful and engaging discussion truly engage the students at Lincoln. Mijana, Master Digital Educator, is certainly making a technology impact.



Tales from the Teachers in the Trenches, the FDEP Polk/Osceola podcast is now available. We are in the beginning stages of this initiative. Please investigate the potential at:

SDOC - Podcasting

<http://sdoc-podcasting.osceola.k12.fl.us/>

School District of Osceola County

When you arrive at the site, click Weblog. Look on the list for the Florida Digital Educator Podcast!

Optional Hubs of Learning

Is there an educational use for iPods and mp3 players in the classroom? How can iTunes possibly be an educational tool? These two topics were the focus of February's Hubs of Learning. Teachers in Polk attended one of two sessions at Travis Technical Center or Lake Marion Creek. Osceola teachers attended one of two sessions at Pleasant Hill Elementary or the IMC classroom. The most exciting part of considering these 21st century tools for the classroom is that our students are using them all the time. Why not look at their educational potential? Using iTunes as an aggregator or "gatherer" of digital assets is one of its little known strengths. Most educators view iTunes as a place they do not want their students to go to iTunes because all they want to do it buy music. However,

iTunes is FAR more than a music store. The most profound use of iTunes was shown to the teachers at summer camp. USF has pioneered iTunes U, a vast repository of FREE digital audio books from Lit2Go, FREE video tutorials on programs such as Movie Maker, Google Earth and even the educational use of iTunes! Probably the most surprising aspect of iTunes is that USF's iTunes U even contains FREE pdf. files of "How To" manuals on a wide variety of educational topics.



WAYKPI?

...an introduction to iTunes & iPods for the classroom and other mp3 players



One only needs to go to the iTunes store, bypass anything for sale and click on the podcasting section for even more FREE selections: Grammar Girl, Conference Connections, National Geographic video shorts and much more. Finally, should we be looking at mp3 players for the classroom? Absolutely! (WAYKI) What are your kids plugged into? As educators, we have the opportunity to plug literature, wisdom, voice, our content and knowledge into those little ear buds. The possibilities are endless.

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Hubs of Learning
iTeach, iLearn, iShare
optional trainings for FDEs and collaborating teachers

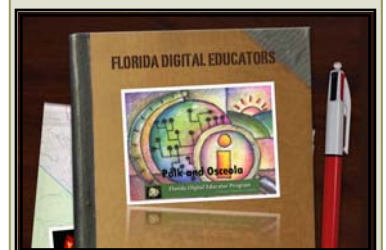
Hubs of Learning afford teachers in the FDE program an opportunity to collaborate, integrate digital tools in the classroom and share with other teachers on their campus.

Tales from the Teachers in the Trenches, the first episode of the FDEP podcast, features the answer to this question, "How has technology made an impact in your classroom?"



"One of the greatest things that has happened in my classroom is being able to have the audio enhancement system. Not only does it save my voice, but the students have really been getting a kick out of it because they get a microphone they can pass back and forth when they want to make a comment or read a passage. It puts the spotlight on them and allows them to express their ideas and there isn't anyone in the classroom that can't hear them.

Tim Hefner, Flora Ridge Elementary School, 5th grade teacher



Visit our website at www.imc.osceola.k12.fl.us/EETT