

# Heights Bits and Bytes

*Colonial Heights Schools' Office of Technology and Learning*

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Instructional Technology Integration Specialists

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## Colonial Heights Staff Members Attend and Present at Ed Tech 2008

Colonial Heights Public Schools was very well represented at this year's Ed Tech 2008 Conference held at Randolph-Macon College. Ed Tech is a very popular annual Technology Conference that is attended by over 650 educators from around the Commonwealth. Colonial Heights was represented by: Julie Bowles, Mary Buyalos, Gayle Miller, Buddy Palatiere, Denise Underhill, Debbie Walwer, and Mark Webster. Julie Bowles and Buddy Palatiere presented for the second year in a row at Ed Tech. This year's topic was "Helping Teachers Help Themselves: Using Moodle as a Technology Self-help Desk." There are over 48 sessions and two Key-Note Addresses over 2 days and this year 42 participants stopped in to hear Julie and Buddy present. Topics covered by Buddy were the design and set-up of the Colonial Heights Technology Summer Institute and Moodle's Self-Help Desk for Teachers. He demonstrated how CHPS staff members access the Help-Desk and how Instructional Technology Resource Teachers from around the state can create similar Help-Desks. Julie demonstrated her Moodle Site: The NINJA Guide to Happiness. On this site she demonstrated how other Computer Support Staff members can access videos on How-To repair computers. The session was very well received and teachers from around the state have emailed both Julie and Buddy for more information.



Buddy Palatiere explains Colonial Heights Schools' Technology Self-Help Desk at the Educational Technology conference held at Randolph Macon College.

Julie Bowles demonstrated how Computer Support Staff members can access Moodle to view videos on repairing computers.



## Colonial Heights teacher honored by the Southside Regional Technology Consortium

Miss Tammy Fryar recently received recognition from the Southside Virginia Regional Technology Consortium for her classroom technology integration. Miss Fryar documents her classes' learning activities throughout the year by using a digital video camera to record lessons correlated to the Virginia Standards of Learning. At the end of the year each student receives a DVD to use to review the years instructional activities and provides a keepsake of their year in Miss Fryar's second grade class. Miss Fryar also uses many technology applications to teach her second graders. Her class learns by viewing United Streaming videos, using the computer lab to support the second grade curriculum.

The Longwood University-based consortium, composed of 25 school systems, coordinates acquisition and effective integration of technology in schools to enhance learning and encourage economic development in Southside Virginia.



The state of Virginia's Secretary of Technology, Aneesh Chopra, congratulates Miss Tammy Fryar as he presents her with the Southside Regional Teaching with Technology award.

## **Online SOL Testing at Colonial Heights High School**

By Mark Webster, Director of Technology and Learning

During May of this school year, over 90% of SOL end-of-course testing was conducted online at Colonial Heights High School. This successful endeavor involved the efforts of the entire school in planning and preparing for, administering, proctoring, and delivering the many SOL tests online. Division-wide administrative and technology personnel dedicated themselves to logistics and support. Computer labs and classrooms in both the high school building and Technical Center building were utilized, and both high school cafeterias were setup as testing centers through the use of mobile laptop carts and wireless networking. The division's Maintenance staff installed new electrical circuits in the cafeterias to support the initiative.

Subject areas that were tested online included Algebra I, Algebra II, Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, English, Virginia and U.S. History, World History I, World History II, and World Geography. Online testing provides many advantages, and the school receives the students' test scores back very quickly. The only subject that was tested through traditional paper and pencil was Geometry, because of the nature of the test and the measurement tools that must be used by students.

## **Southside Regional Technology Consortium Presentation**

Debbie Walwer presented the staff development portion of the Southside Regional Technology Consortium meeting held in Blackstone on February 19, 2008.

Debbie presented an informative program on how the theory of Multiple Intelligences can be supported by the use of technology in the classroom for teaching and learning. Debbie passed out a survey for members to complete. The survey was a diagnosis of strengths other than mathematical or verbal. Debbie discussed the eight intelligences and how a traditional teacher teaches versus a Multiple Intelligences teacher.

"The theory of multiple intelligences was developed in 1983 by Dr. Howard Gardner, professor of education at Harvard University. Dr. Gardner proposes eight different intelligences to account for a broader range of human potential."

These eight intelligences are Linguistic intelligence, "word smart," Logical-mathematical intelligence, "number/reasoning smart," Spatial intelligence, "picture smart," Bodily-Kinesthetic intelligence, "body smart," Musical intelligence, "music smart," Interpersonal intelligence, "people smart," Intrapersonal intelligence, "self smart," and Naturalist intelligence, "nature smart."

Contact Debbie Walwer if you want to learn more about how the theory of Multiple Intelligences can be integrated into your curriculum using technology.

## Superintendent Dr. Cox Enjoys Technology Integration Tours at Our Schools

By Mark Webster, Director of Technology and Learning

During the 2007 - 2008 school year, our Superintendent Dr. Joseph Cox toured all five of our schools to observe the integration of technology into classroom instruction. These tours gave us a chance to showcase what our innovative teachers are doing in the classroom to improve instruction through the use of technology.

### Elementary School Technology Tours

Dr. Joseph Cox toured our three elementary schools on Tuesday, April 29, 2008, and observed teachers utilizing Computer on Wheels ("COW") carts, document cameras, Classroom Performance System (CPS) "clickers" to engage students, and various instructional applications that were integrated into instruction. Accompanying Dr. Cox on the tour were Debbie Walwer, Instructional Technology Integration Specialist, Dr. M. Jo Bunce, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, and Mark Webster, Director of Technology and Learning. The one day whirlwind tour throughout the city was planned and coordinated by Mrs. Walwer, and Mr. Webster took photos and served as the "reporter" for the activities.

#### North Elementary School

Ms. Tammy Fryar used a Computer on Wheels ("COW") cart to present an SOL review video to her second grade students. This activity showcases student work, and provides an engaging way to review important SOL concepts. Mrs. Wanda Bage used the eInstruction Classroom Performance System (CPS) "clickers" and Study Island to involve her fourth grade students in the study and review of probability concepts in math.

#### Tussing Elementary School

Mr. Will Kooiker used Harcourt Math in Tussing's computer lab with his first grade students. This application is a wonderful resource that was provided through our textbook adoption, provides immediate student assessment, and helps the teacher differentiate instruction and meet individual student needs.



Right: Mr. Will Kooiker and Dr. Jo Bunce discuss Harcourt Math Center Software.  
Left: Mr. Kooiker's students learn using Harcourt Math's interactive Mega Math games.

Mrs. Donna Moring used a Computer on Wheels ("COW") cart and AverMedia document camera to teach earth science concepts such as weathering and erosion to fourth and fifth grade students. She utilized multimedia rich content from United Streaming.

Lakeview Elementary School

Mrs. Gayle Miller, the school's library media specialist, used an interactive whiteboard (SmartBoard) to have students take turns answering questions related to geography. They also participated in a geography WebQuest using the media center computers.

Mrs. Melissa Chance used a Computer on Wheels ("COW") cart and PowerPoint presentation with multimedia rich content from United Streaming, to review concepts related to the causes of the Civil War.

### **Middle School Technology Tour**

Dr. Joseph Cox toured Colonial Heights Middle School on Tuesday, February 19, 2008 to observe the integration of technology into classroom instruction. There were many innovative uses of technology as teachers utilized their new laptop computers and technology tools to present curriculum objectives in creative and engaging ways. Colonial Heights Middle School teachers were assigned laptops this school year, and this technology has proven to be a valuable instructional tool.

Accompanying Dr. Cox our Superintendent on the tour were Buddy Palatiere, Instructional Technology Integration Specialist, and Mark Webster, Director of Technology and Learning. The tour was planned and coordinated by Mr. Palatiere, and Mr. Webster took the photos and served as the "reporter."

Mr. Bill Hertz taught a lesson on U.S. History and utilized the interactive SmartBoard, and multimedia clips from United Streaming, to teach about World War I. He invited students to take turns answering questions using the SmartBoard.

Mrs. Allison Whitley presented a math lesson that involved many teaching strategies, including technology integration. She used her laptop, LCD projector, and interactive tablet for a warm up exercise and math review. Then she took a creative cross-curriculum approach by showing a presentation and integrating the history of the Statue of Liberty as an icebreaker for a problem-based math lesson. This was a fun lesson where students, given the size of Liberty's nose, worked in cooperative groups to figure out the size of her arm!

Mrs. Deanne Barnett and Ms. Kathryn Hanson collaborated in a physical science lesson that involved students in an engaging game approach. The teachers used a laptop, interactive software, and LCD projector, and students competed in teams to answer questions relating to Newton's laws, answering with the student response systems, or "clickers."

Mr. Rick Ridpath used his laptop computer, eInstruction Chalkboard slate, and LCD projector to present a lesson on early American history to his sixth graders. Multimedia rich content from United Streaming was integrated into the lesson.



Right: Mr. Rick Ridpath used his laptop computer, eInstruction's chalkboard, and an LCD projector to present an Early American History lesson to his sixth graders. Left: Mrs. Deanne Barnett and Mrs. Katherine Hanson used a laptop, interactive software and an LCD projector and Personal Response System as they collaborated to teach a Physical Science lesson.

Mrs. Brenda Dortch used some cross-curriculum teaching strategies with her keyboarding students. Much of her curriculum materials are posted on Moodle, and she used a web-based PowerPoint presentation running from the Moodle site to present geographic concepts, and review characteristics that are used to compare and contrast countries. Students downloaded a template from the Moodle site, and used their keyboards to enter information about countries into a table.

Ms. Kate Kelley used her laptop computer, LCD projector, and Avery document camera to demonstrate how to use multi-colored beads to model the structure of a DNA molecule. Students created their DNA models with the beads and other items.

### High School Technology Tour

The school year's technology tours began at our high school on Friday, December 14, 2007. Dr. Joseph Cox observed teachers integrating technology into instruction in a variety of ways, including utilizing their new laptop computers with newly installed LCD projectors, COW carts, and SmartBoards. Students shared how they're planning and composing the school's yearbook using online desktop publishing software and laptop computers. Teachers and students in computer lab equipped classrooms used cutting edge computer applications such as technical drawing software, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology, and streaming video.

Accompanying Dr. Cox on the tour were the Principal, Dr. John Keeler, Dr. M. Jo Bunce, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, Mark Webster, Director of Technology and Learning, and Buddy Palatiere, Instructional Technology Integration Specialist. The tour was coordinated by Mr. Palatiere, and Mr. Webster took the photos and served as the “reporter.”

Mrs. Lori Grammer used PowerPoint with streaming video to teach science concepts to her biology students. Mr. David Napier's students in his computer equipped classroom used AutoCAD software to create architectural blueprints. Mrs. Amy Crafton reviewed algebra skills with her students using a COW, and Mrs. Erin Ford used the SmartBoard to teach English grammar. Mr. Bill Ryan's students used GIS technology, and presented their ideas related to plans for a river walk for the city. Mrs. Tabitha Strickler's students used online desktop publishing as part of their ongoing efforts to create the school yearbook. The tour also featured a peek into the computer lab where students were taking an SOL test online.

### ***Technology a Step Ahead Awards Given to Teachers at All Five Schools***

By Mark Webster, Director of Technology and Learning (with assistance from Debbie Walwer in narrating teacher accomplishments)

The *Technology a Step Ahead* Award is given in recognition for extraordinary efforts to use technology effectively for teaching and learning. It doesn't necessarily mean using technology merely because it's trendy or new, but because it makes things better for our students! This school year, the award was given at different times to a total of ten deserving teachers, two at every one of our five schools.

### **Awards to Teachers at All Five Schools – End of School Year**

During the last week of this school year, I was happy to provide each school principal with a framed certificate, a clock engraved with “Technology a Step Ahead,” and a technology ballpoint pen so that they can present the awards to the deserving recipients at end of school year functions or meetings.

Colonial Heights High School: Ms. Parham Weaver was selected for her outstanding leadership with the important Achieve 3000 program in helping high school students achieve success.

Colonial Heights Middle School: Assistant Principal Mr. Stephen Castle will receive the award at the school's luncheon for his tireless efforts with being a technology leader for his school, rolling up his sleeves and installing LCD projectors, and being a champion for technology integration.

North Elementary School: Ms. Tammy Fryar decided to make technology integration a priority for this school year, and has planned valuable lessons using computers that integrate with the second grade Standards of Learning. She created a DVD that showcases her students' activities.

Lakeview Elementary School: Mrs. Michelle McCall uses the computer lab to connect her instructional activities in the classroom with technology. She has her class use the Harcourt Math Center, Harcourt Electronic Testing System, and Study Island to assess their strengths and weaknesses in Math and Reading. She created Jeopardy games using PowerPoint to give her class an enjoyable way to review Social Studies concepts.

Tussing Elementary School: Mrs. Terry Wagoner uses the document camera COW cart to enhance instruction for her special education students. Concepts are easier to grasp when students see them demonstrated for them, and this use of technology on a daily basis helps her students learn through the use of technology.

### **Awards to Elementary Teachers - January 2008**

Three innovative teachers from our three elementary schools were recipients of the "Technology a Step Award" on January 28, 2008. Mark Webster, Director of Technology and Learning, presented the award to the teachers at each of the schools on Professional Development Day.

Lakeview Elementary School - Melissa Chance

Mrs. Chance instructs using computer technology, often PowerPoint presentations that she has created. She takes pictures during the school year and at the end of the year showcases the past academic school year by presenting the PowerPoint to her class.

North Elementary School - Kathy Young

Mrs. Young directs her fifth grade students to use technology in many unique ways. Each student begins an "All About Me" project and continues to work on it throughout the school year. She integrates technology with learning while using a variety of software programs that correlate with the content she teaches. When her students visit the lab, they are always on task using computer technology to learn.

Tussing Elementary School - Donna Moring

Mrs. Moring uses technology to stimulate her students. Mrs. Moring's students are involved with making graphic organizers from templates that she has created using Microsoft Publisher. Her fourth and fifth grade students view United Streaming videos that correlate with the content, and often use interactive note taking following the viewing of these videos.

### **Awards to Secondary Teachers – August 2007**

At the beginning of the school year during faculty training that accompanied the distribution of new laptop computers, Mark Webster presented the awards to two very deserving teachers. Colonial Heights High School teacher John Brannan received the award for his many hours of hard work using technology with his Honors Biology students. He's developed PowerPoint presentations and electronic assessments, and found innovative ways to use technology, such as moving his course to Moodle.

Colonial Heights Middle School teacher Rick Ridpath received the award for the creative ways that he's found to integrate technology into his curriculum. Mr. Ridpath was one of the original 15 middle school teachers who received laptops, and his pioneering spirit has led him to venture into creating and using multimedia rich content, and using technology with his students in creative ways.

### **2008 CHPS Technology Summer Institute**

All faculty and staff members are invited to attend the Technology Summer Institute that will be held this summer at the Technical Center.

Session Dates:

June 16-June 20 , July 7-July11, August 4-August 22

For a detailed calendar of classes and times go to:

<http://www.colonialhts.net/index.cfm?SecID=D&PageID=613>