Friday Focus

Greenup County Schools

Technology Infusion Impacts Achievement

Ever asked a kid if they want to use your IPhone or Android to keep them occupied while waiting at a doctors visit or in line in the super-market? As parents many of us are guilty of using technology to occupy children. So if technology engages students why not em-brace it and find ways to use it to our advantage as educators?

Thoughtfully planned lessons can engage students and lead to the development of 21st century skills such as complex thinking, creative problems solving, and collaboration among learners
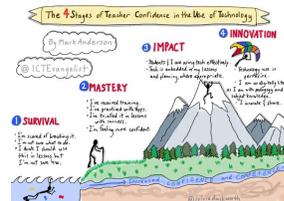
Consider these three concepts when deciding about infusing tech-nology.

Look for Connections. When students use technology, it should be within the context of larger learning goals rather than in isola-tion. Technology used in isolation is less effective than when it's inte-grated into a curricular set of activi-ties. The goal should not be to use technology but to attain a particular conceptual under-standing, demonstrate knowledge, or apply skills using technology.

Don't Assume. There are a lot of facts floating out there, and everyone has an opin-ion. Base your understand-ing of education technology on reliable sources. Just because it says "Common Core Aligned " or "Best Practice for ACT" doesn't mean it best fits your lesson needs. Check it out first and make sure it is worth spend-ing valuable instructional time with students.

It's All in the Application. The success of any tool depends on how it's used. Ask how a gadget or pro-gram furthers higher think-ing, basic skills, or the child's ability to evaluate, analyze, and synthesize ideas. This way, you'll en-

sure that it's being used for more than its novelty.

GCSD is proud to be developing leaders in the area of technology infusion via Operation Tech-Spert. You have wonderful tech-nology infusion going on in your very own schools. Check with a neighbor who is participating about anything they may be able to share with you. Also know we will offer it again next year. For now, call upon us a Central Of-fice for any additional technology ideas to meet your teaching and curriculum needs.

Upcoming Academy Dates:

- Program Review A&H Session– Eve 2/9
- Flex PD Day No School—2/16
- TechSpert– Eve 2/17

Inside this issue:

NVL Interactive Manipulatives

Kentucky Academy of Technology Education

Greenup Web Resources Matrix

SMART Exchange

Sir Ken Robinson Changing Paradigms

GAP Strategy of the Week:

Make it Relevant. Relevancy is one of the major factors affecting retention. Students are not likely to retain what they perceive as irrelevant. Keep in mind that it is their perception of relevancy that matters, no yours.– David Sousa