

Technology Update

MONROE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
October 2009

Monroe County schools are going green!

The Monroe County ISD and Monroe County Health Department Division of Solid Waste are partnering to promote Green Schools in Monroe County.

Michigan Green Schools is a non-profit agency dedicated to assisting all Michigan schools in protecting the air, land, water and animals of our state.

Michigan Green Schools began in the Hartland Consolidated School District in the fall of 2005. Twenty points of educational environmental activities were created. Any Michigan school that achieved ten of these points within an academic year would be designated as a Michigan Green School.

The 20 points include recycling of paper, batteries, cell phones and printer cartridges, energy conservation, establishing a Michigan garden with native plants, creating a birdhouse habitat, organizing an ecology club, and promoting environmental

issues in school projects.

With support from the Hartland state representative and senator, and approval from both houses, the Michigan Green Schools bill was signed by Governor Granholm in May of 2006. In the first year of the program, 18 schools participated. The program has since grown to include over 500 Michigan schools.

The Michigan Green Schools website has a list of the 20 points of energy and environmental savings activities, links to online resources, FAQs, and the official application form that schools must

complete to receive recognition as a Michigan Green School.

The organization is run by Green School volunteers and relies on donations from corporate and private sources.

Visit the Michigan Green Schools website:
www.michiangreenschools.org



Technology Workshops:

CPS Clickers in the Classroom
Tuesday, October 13
4:30-6:00 PM

SMARTboard Roundtable
Thursday, October 15
4:30-6:00 PM

Social Bookmarking is Delicious
Tuesday, October 27
4:30-6:00 PM

Let's Make a Mathcast
Tuesday, November 10
4:30-6:00 PM

I Didn't Know You Could Do That With PowerPoint
Tuesday, November 24
4:30-6:00 PM

Digital Storytelling: Introduction
Thursday, December 3
4:30-6:00 PM



Visit us on the web:
www.misd.k12.mi.us

Tip of the Month: Keyboard shortcuts

There are DOZENS of keyboard shortcuts that enable you to keep both hands on your keyboard without having to use your mouse to click through menus to perform common editing tasks. Typically a keyboard shortcut uses the "control key" (CTRL). The CTRL keys are located on the bottom row of the keyboard below the Shift keys. You hold down one of the CTRL keys as you type a letter on your keyboard to perform the intended shortcut.

Here's a list of the most common office suite shortcuts and what they do:

CTRL+C (Copy) CTRL+X (Cut) CTRL+V (Paste) CTRL+Z (Undo)

Try them out! With practice you'll find using them to be a real time saver.



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Online Web 2.0 class begins November 9

"23 Things Teachers and Administrators Should Know About Web 2.0" was the most popular technology class offered in the past year. Based on feedback from participants, the class has been revised into two separate and shorter offerings, each worth 1 SB-CEU.

The first class, "**11 Things**," will be offered online from November 9 through January 4. "Web 2.0" means the internet is now participatory. The web is no longer just for finding information: it's for consuming AND producing content through a variety of free web-based applications. Participants will learn how Web 2.0 promotes creativity, communication, and collaboration. All educators are invited to participate in this self-paced course.

Participants will work independently from any internet connected computer. They will create their own blog which will then be used as the platform for completing and reflecting on the other assigned tasks. Each participant will think about ways to use the various websites personally, professionally, and pedagogically.

Participants must be self-motivated, adventurous, and VERY comfortable navigating the internet, creating online accounts, and accessing email. Participants must be able to troubleshoot and problem-solve as part of the course experience. MCISD will not provide tech support for this class.

The websites to be explored include Blogger, Bloglines, Delicious, Slideshare, and Google Docs. You may register for this online class on Coursewhere.



Website of the Month: FactCheckEd

FactCheckEd is a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center and is intended for high school students and teachers. The purpose of this website is to help students sift through the false and biased information that they are confronted with online. Here is an overview of the project from the FactCheckEd website:

"We believe that truth is an elusive commodity in our world of ceaseless communication, a world in which information is transmitted in huge help-

ings and in a virtual instant. All of us are overwhelmed with messages, many of them attempts to persuade us to do or buy something. Our aim is to help students learn to be smart consumers of these messages, not to accept them at face value; to dig for facts using the Internet, not to stop looking once they get to Wikipedia; and to weigh evidence logically, not to draw conclusions based on their own biases."

Among the many lesson plans that teachers may download from the website is one on Wikipedia. In this lesson students will:

- Examine the ease with which Wikipedia entries can be altered (either innocently or maliciously).
- Discuss the accuracy of Wikipedia as an encyclopedia and consider the usefulness of any encyclopedia as a source of information.
- Search Wikipedia for specific factual errors.

Another timely lesson plan is "Health Care Hooley." All lesson plans are correlated to national standards and include student handouts, and links to other online resources including video.

Visit this outstanding website at www.factchecked.org

