

TECH TALK

NOTES: It's been awhile since the last Tech Talk...please take time to read through each section, there's a lot of information and new items that the county would like us to be aware of and use as much as we can. Thanks! **TLB**

LEARN: We've been busy in the lab! Every class now has their ear buds and the tub to store them in. Students know how to take care of them and how to put them away properly. You are welcome to use them in the classroom when you are using iPads, computers, listening centers, etc. Please remind students to put them back so they can come to the lab on your computer days. Other specialists or resource teachers may request that they bring them, too.

PLAN: If your grade level has something that you are working on and would like support in the lab, please let me know. The following is planned for the next week:

- K-Student number practice using Microsoft Word and [Starfall Reading](#)
- 1st-[Literary Doodles](#)-connecting thoughts and images to text
- 2nd-Animal research using [National Geographic Kids](#) and begin using Discovery Education-Board Builder
- 3rd- Finishing online posters in Discovery Education-Board Builder
- 4th- All About Me: typing essays and finishing online posters in Discovery Education-Board Builder
- 5th-Continued work on Geometric Self Portrait in Power Point

NEW!

[Google Apps](#): "WCPSS Google Apps is a suite of web-based messaging and collaboration applications hosted by Google and managed by WCPSS..." You login using your WCPSS email address with your employee number as the password. If you have used your WCPSS email to create a Google account, or as backup or recovery for your personal email, you need to go to [this site FIRST](#), before you try logging in because you will have a conflicting account. This is the program that I use to make the online forms and spreadsheets. There are other applications that you may also find helpful. Please note—we do NOT have Gmail at this time.

[Tech Wishlist](#): There are so many cool gadgets and apps out there that it's hard to keep up. If you find something that you really could use or have used before in the classroom, please [use this form to request item\(s\)](#) to be purchased. There are no guarantees, but we can evaluate the need and can try to fill as many wishes as possible. Dream big...you never know what you might get!

[ITLMS Website](#): "Instructional Technology and Library Media Services have combined in one team to provide the best support in how students and teachers use information..." Read more [here](#).

[Voice Thread](#): All WCPSS student and staff have automated Voice Thread Accounts. For employees: WCPSS123456 (6-digit employee number) and password is the employee number, too. Students have the same login that they use for Discovery Education. You can read more [here](#).

[Staff QR Signs](#): Mrs. Maynard has graciously helped out with the signs and will be placing them outside your door soon. I will send you a link to access your comments through Google. Please be sure that you have logged in to Google Apps in order to access the file.

FUN:

Happy Thanksgiving! Here is a previous [Google Doodle](#) to dress your turkey this year...just click the turkey. ☺ And for the upcoming holidays...Our office staff has been busy decorating the office [here](#)! Make your own video using [Elf Yourself](#) from Office Max. **It plays in QuickTime or Real Player.**

UPDATE:

- **Over Break: Leave your desktop machines plugged in over break, but be sure they are shutdown and the monitors are turned off.**
- Please continue to use the [Tech Request Form](#). I have added a link on the staff resources page for you to let me know about tech issues, this includes needing ink, access to printers, log in info, etc. Please fill in all parts of the form and that will also help in speeding up the repair process.
- When shutting down your computers, please run any updates that appear by choosing "Install Updates and Shutdown." If this is on your laptop, please leave it plugged in while it updates.
- **Desktop computers also need to be dusted and cleaned off.** We have many machines that are breaking down because there is so much dust in them. I have canned air if you need it as well as screen wipes for your monitors.