

AT Tidbits, April/May 2014

Video Clips

Here is an easy to understand introduction to Google Drive! I am using this much of the time now and I'm finding it to be an invaluable tool. The creator of this video, Anson Alexander, has a series of short videos explaining the various features of Google Drive. Start here and see what drive has to offer. <http://tinyurl.com/nxv2tev>

Food for thought in this video clip--"The Case Against Assistive Technology"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INs88Ki1WSo>

Think about students who are being missed and how technology can help to level the "playing field" for ALL students.

FYI

Do your students have all kinds of interesting questions such as:

How do fireflies glow?

Why do skunks stink?

How many people are on the earth?

For answers to these and other thought provoking questions voted on by students, take a look at www.wonderopolis.org. Each day a question like the ones above are answered with a short narrative that can be read aloud by the computer and at the end there are questions that quiz the student about what they've just read. Other resources and activities are also suggested in relation to the topic. This site is definitely interesting and would be fun for the entire class.

For middle and high school teachers, a great way to get more class participation is to use a back channel during your teaching. A back channel is a place where students can make comments, ask questions, contribute resources, and help you target your presentation. A very easy one to use is called Today'sMeet and you will find it at www.todaysmeet.com. Your back channel room can be saved from one hour up to one year after you use it. It's a wonderful way to make your class a bit more interesting and it's free!

For younger students who are just learning about letters and numbers I love these iPad/Android apps that are way too much fun and so creative! Take a look at **Endless Numbers, Endless Alphabet, and Endless Reader**. The Reader and Numbers app initial download is free but have in app purchases that are \$2.99 or \$3.99. The Alphabet app is \$6.99 but definitely worth it in my opinion.

Newsela is a nonfiction reading comprehension site appropriate for 4th grade up through high

school level readers. The daily news serves as the source for the articles and they change each day. Articles can be adjusted to five lexile levels with a click of the mouse. It is a great way to differentiate for the reading levels of your class. Articles are paired with quizzes that work on the types of questions the common core asks for. Basic accounts are free and other features are available with a paid account. <http://www.newsela.com/pages/about-newsela/>

Try one of these new resources and see how it can enhance your student's or child's learning. Take a look at my twitter feed for additional resources @RosanneBurden. Even if you don't have a Twitter account, my Twitter feed is also available directly from the Berrien RESA web page at <http://www.berrienresa.org/specialeducation/assistive-technology/>

Happy Spring!