

Tech Tidbits

CUTTING THROUGH THE JARGON

As educators, we constantly hear the latest “trends” and new jargon thrown around in daily conversations....so what do these words really mean and why should you care?

Gamification: Whether you think back to growing up with board games , starting a kickball competition, or playing the PS4/Wii/Gameboy, no one can deny the fun and engagement in a good game. These factors (FUN & ENGAGEMENT) along with the idea of learning in a non-traditional way are where GAMIFICATION comes in to learning. This includes activities such as utilizing content tools that individualize learning in a gaming environment, redesigning a classroom structure around “tasks” that must be completed to advance, applying knowledge and skills using challenges like [BREAKOUT EDU](#) or Kahoot, and challenging students to create a “game based” study tool or teaching tool classmates can use.

MakerED: Maker Education encompasses the idea of empowering students to create their own learning through a problem based and project based environment. This includes tinkering, engineering, hands on creativity, collaboration, and often learning experience that solve authentic problems. Enhancing learning with making supports a platitude of skills including critical thinking, collaboration, communication, grit, problem solving, self-direction, creativity, reflection, resourcefulness, and student empowerment. MakerEd learning can range from skill based design challenges to STEAM activities that use basic supplies or tech like Spheros to help students understand concepts in Geometry, Physics, Art. etc. MakerEd also includes enhancing games & traditional objects using a variety of mediums (low-tech, high-tech, no-tech) to create a learning artifact or discover a complicated concept.

Experiential Learning: hands on learning that involves reflection throughout the process. This includes experiences such as internships, field trips (even virtual field trips), study abroad, and service learning projects. These experiences provide students with the opportunities to apply the knowledge and skills they have learned as well as develop many of the 4 Cs (collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity). Experiential learning also broadens the learning environment and experiences of the students.



What does all this come back to? Think about a Koi Fish...

When provided the right environment and nurtured with certain factors, it will thrive and reach **its** full potential. How can we challenge students to think expansively, act ethically and lead responsibly as we push them toward their full potential?

TOOLS/RESOURCES TO EXPLORE

<https://wke.lt/w/s/UQEluo>

Any blue underlined text is a hyperlink.



Did you know?

**The PA Edtech Conference,
PETE&C is being hosted in
Pittsburgh this year!**

**PETE&C
(Pennsylvania Educational
Technology Expo & Conference)
is being held
February 23-26, 2020
at the
David L. Lawrence
Convention Center
Pittsburgh, Pa**

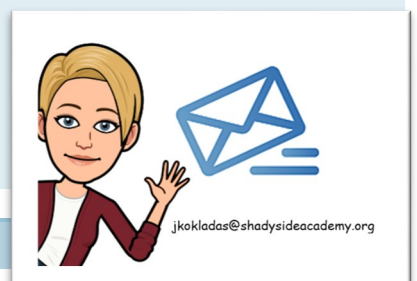
Register at:

<https://www.peteandc.org/>

**This conference, historically held
in Hershey, Pa, will bring
educators from across the state
together to showcase how
technology is enhancing
instruction and elevating
learning in classrooms PreK-12.**

**Your very own, Pam Onest (MS
English) and I will be presenting
on....**

**Transforming the Writing
Process**



Creativity Across the Curriculum

Creativity can be expressed in a myriad of ways. Below are just a few tools that can help showcase that creativity.

Book Creator (app and web based tool)

<https://bookcreator.com/>

Book Creator enables easy creation of interactive stories, research journals, instructional manuals, comic adventures and so much more through images (drawn, captured, or imported), text, audio, and video. A free educator account gives you the ability to publish 40 books to an online library.

Green Screen (DoInk) & StopMotion (Stop Motion Studio)

<http://www.doink.com/> (app)

<https://www.cateater.com/> (app)

Two fun ways to capture a process, tell a story, or take a learning journey.

Flipgrid & FlipGrid Augmented Reality

<https://info.flipgrid.com/>

<http://blog.flipgrid.com/news/ar>

Not just a tool for responses & reflection anymore. The Flipgrid camera now enables storytelling and content sharing with the added whiteboard, video styles, inking, and the always easy recording.

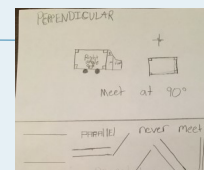
*With the added Augmented Reality tool, you can now use a videos QR code to add a learning/teaching "layer" to anything.

Adobe Spark

<https://spark.adobe.com/>

Create visual stories and amazing online content with Post (social graphics), Page (Web Page) & Video

Sketchnoting

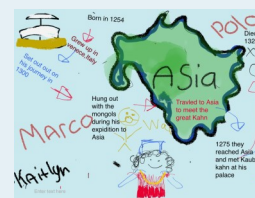


I am all for any idea/tool/resource that makes learning visual, and although my doodling skills have a long way to go, I see so many ways Sketchnoting is amazing.

The idea behind Sketchnoting is to make notetaking visual for the learner, whether that be the students or yourself, in order to create a more meaningful and more engaging connection to the content being learned.

Find out more....

<https://wke.it/w/s/1ndZjZ>



Looking for more.... Apple Project Guides <https://apple.co/33IULKQ>

Creation with a Chromebook bit.ly/youchromebook

More Free PD & Resources <http://ssaedtech.weebly.com/online-pd.html>

Teachers encourage minds to think, hands to create, and hearts to love ~Unknown

Creativity is a mindset that anyone can develop and grow...

Educated By Design PGH

Monday, December 2, 2019
4:00-5:30pm

Shady Side Academy Senior School
Glimcher Tech & Design Hub
423 Fox Chapel Road
Pittsburgh, Pa 15238

remakex learning

December 2nd our faculty in-service day will be spent with Michael Cohen, The Tech Rabbi. More details will be coming with the schedule for the day. I would like to invite everyone to stick around at the end of the in-service day for the **Educated By Design PGH Meetup.**

We have invited educators and educational leaders from around the Pittsburgh region to meet Michael and join the global conversation around creativity, empathy, and disrupting the educational experience through #educatedbydesign.

Find out more & RSVP at <http://bit.ly/2CeZyY7>

Teacher Spotlight

Junior School 3rd & 5th grade classes have been focusing on thinking flexibly, creatively, and innovatively along with developing persistence while tackling BREAKOUT challenges. It is a blast to watching the students dissect the clues, but the best part is listening to their ingenious teachers debrief as they guide student reflection on what they have learned and what they will apply to other challenges and learning experiences later. <http://bit.ly/32LNitc>

The marvelous teachers facilitating this learning are Mrs. Blazin, Mr. Stern, and Mr. McCarroll.

Check out these adorable JPK students at CDS sharing their learning of primary and secondary colors. Their amazingly creative teacher, Mrs. Bethany Smith, used Green Screening to showcase the process of learning along with the final product. <http://bit.ly/32GJzNn>. Her lesson has inspired many educators around the globe as the Tweet has gone viral with 3.9K views.