



Laptops for 21st Century Learning Online Newsletter Summer, 2008

Laptops for 21st Century Learning (Enhancing Education Through Technology Grant)

The Laptops for 21st Century Learning EETT Grant will focus on technology enhanced project-based learning activities as students acquire the literacy skills that are vital to success in the 21st century. Students will learn content knowledge, develop information and communication technology literacy and cultivate workplace competencies such as teamwork, communication, planning and problem solving. The program will provide laptop computers and other digital resources for student use in targeted classrooms and extensive professional development for the students' teachers so that they will be prepared to incorporate these technologies.

The teachers selected for this grant implementation are participating in technology learning communities and are well equipped to use the technology available to them. They have agreed to continue their journey to effectively integrate technology into the curriculum by moving beyond an appropriate but limited use of technology in the instructional process to complete infusion of technology. Their technology learning communities will provide a system for collaboration, mutual support and professional development during the grant implementation.

Meet the 21st Century Student

What do we know about today's students? We know that they live in a digital world which is impacted by continuously changing technology and an explosion of information. How are they different from 20th Century students? They are

- goal-oriented and able to pursue multiple outcomes at the same time
- creative and adaptive
- media and technology confident
- sound and images preferred over text
- communicators and collaborators

What does this mean for educators? They must design curriculum and use appropriate technology to provide the active engagement, collaborative learning and real-world contexts which allow students to "use their knowledge to communicate, collaborate, analyze, create, innovate, and solve problems" (Partnerships for 21st Century Skills, 2007 @ www.21stcenturyskills.org)



IT Teachers

- Linda Cobb
- Norma Jennings
- Sue Stevens
- Peggy Thompson
- Lauren Thurman
- Lori Weedo

Upcoming Events:

- Open House
September 18

Participating Technology

Learning Groups:

Ferry Pass MS

(Deborah Long, TLGF)

Ransom MS

(Jim Moore, TLGF)

Woodham MS

(Summer DeMilly, TLGF)





A single drop.

A Growing Ripple...

**Instructional Technology
Professional Development!**

*Providing technology training
and support to students,
teachers, administrators and staff
district-wide.*

Teachers Prepare for Project Based Learning



The participating teachers worked together during the *ECSD Summer Technology Integration Institute* to increase their expertise in designing and managing projects for middle school students. This included professional development in cooperative learning strategies, appropriate assessment for Project Based Learning, and 21st Century literacies. They also examined practical examples and recommendations on how digital technologies can be used to enhance student learning.

Research about student learning was another area of focus. Teachers explored how to incorporate into their lessons the following principals of

Universal Design for Learning which call for "using technology to provide:

- *Multiple means of representation, to give learners various ways of acquiring information and knowledge,*
- *Multiple means of expression, to provide learners alternatives for demonstrating what they know,*
- *Multiple means of engagement, to tap into learners' interests, offer appropriate challenges, and increase motivation."* From: www.cast.org/publications/index.html

Summer Training with the Florida Master Digital Educators

Teachers participating in the grant attended a Summer Teacher and Training Institute at the University of West Florida which was sponsored by the Florida Digital Educator Program. The purpose of the T&L Institute was to provide educators with technology experiences, updates on revised Sunshine State Standards, and opportunities to participate in project-based learning and collaboration they would expect of their students in today's global economy. The teachers explored digital storytelling with video, enhancing understanding and meaning through audio, images and their impact on cognition, podcasting as an engaging tool that strengthens learning, as well as subject specific sessions. They learned to use digital tools and put their new skills to work as they developed collaborative projects with a team of fellow educators.



Jim Moore, Ransom TLGF, collaborates with other teachers during the Summer Teacher and Training Institute at UWF in July.

"If we teach today's students as we taught yesterday's, we rob them of tomorrow."

John Dewey