

The Learning Page: teacher collaboration and student engagement

Delia Raymos Pass, Ed.D.
Rutherford County Schools
USA
drpass@CollaborateAndCreate.org

Abstract:The Learning Page for Students is a collaboratively built website created by teachers to promote student engagement using quality Internet resources for learning. The Learning Page for Students encourages the use of technology as a tool for active, directed learning through teacher-created lessons and themes aligned with the classroom curriculum. The focus of The Learning Page for Students is to increase computer technology integration into the K-5 classroom.

Introduction

The implementation of The Learning Page for Students as a model in schools promotes a collaborative learning community among teachers. Teacher collaboration, strong administrative support, and a desire to introduce new technologies making use of existing and often outdated technology are all aspects of this model. Teachers working collaboratively to increase student engagement and establish a practical standards-based online learning program supports active, directed learning for students. This model is a powerful design for leaders to implement in schools and districts. The model is research based and has moved beyond a one-school initiative to additional district schools.

The Learning Page

The Learning Page is a student website created by teacher collaboration. The website has become a space for teachers to provide technology-integrated lessons for students and an avenue to share these lessons with colleagues on the local and district level. The purpose of The Learning Page is to promote technology integration into current curricula and to give students guided direction for Internet searches on specific topics. This online resource also allows teachers to share their technology-rich lessons within and across grade levels as well as creating an online environment that can be accessed by any learning community. The website not only acts as a place to disseminate teacher lessons, but promotes specific topics such as statewide testing skills, reading, writing, and other themes organizing quality Internet resources for student utilization.

The technology-rich lessons on The Learning Page promote higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills by students as well as provide lessons in real-world contexts creating authentic learning environments. Increased interest in learning by students occurs when using computers and the World Wide Web for information gathering and research. Collaboration and the addition of schools or individuals who contribute to The Learning Page for Students increases the number of shared lessons available for teachers to use with their students. Teachers and students increase technology literacy by creating and using computer technology more frequently. Students may access the resources at home or their local library increasing parental involvement in the learning process.

Collaborate And Create

The Collaborate And Create teacher resource website is a space where teachers may access information on methods of integrating technology into the curriculum to assist in the development of lessons to be added to The Learning Page for Students. The goal of the Collaborate And Create environment is to promote collaborative hands-on learning among teachers, whether it is as a supplement to traditional in-service meetings or as an online resource for sharing and learning. The Collaborate And Create website was originally developed as a supplement to a face-to-face professional development activity, but the characteristics and goals of the website have changed (One Laptop Per Teacher, 2007). Collaborate and Create can be an online resource for teachers to share information, as well as methods and models of technology integration that work within a school district or across the world.

References

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