



Florida Digital Educator Program

A statewide integration initiative

Special points of interest:

- Action Research
- DE streaming
- Tales from the Teachers in the Trenches
- **Best Of eXample**

Sonia Fuentes



Patricia Pike, Auburndale Central Elementary *"I don't know what I would do without technology. It makes teaching so much more fun. Technology allows me to differentiate instruction by tailoring it right to the student's individual needs."*



Sarah Thompkins, McKeel Elementary Academy, is using Skype with a live newscaster to help her students understand the importance of storyboarding, editing and scripts.

Action Research

By Virginia Richard

Did you know that action research empowers teachers to use every level of Blooms taxonomy? The North Central Regional Educational Laboratory (2007) says action research gives educators new opportunities to reflect on and assess their teaching; to explore and test new ideas, methods, and materials; to assess how effective the new approaches were; to share feedback with fellow team members; and to make decisions about which new approaches to include in the team's curriculum, instruction, and assessment plans. Ten teachers involved in a joint collaborative EETT Competitive



Florida Digital Educator Program in Osceola and Polk Counties have taken the plunge and have committed to determine if the use of technology enhances, engages or increases student achievement. By doing so, teachers will be able to share the results with school, district and state leaders. Many teachers do not realize it but action research is being conducted during the teaching and learning process regardless if they are presenting the results in a formal way. Formalizing the information empowers teachers to use higher level thinking and problem solving skills to determine the most effective

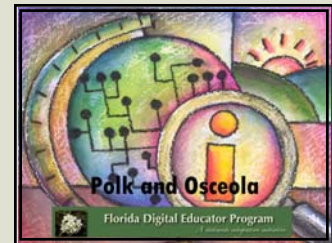


Jonathan Zenzel, at St. Cloud Middle School is studying the effects of using Gagle.net email on communication effectiveness between his teammates and their students.



Deborah Futch, at Winter Haven High School is studying how PowerPoint, EXCEL and video projects improve student understanding of exchange rates of other countries.

Karen C. Seddon



way to increase student achievement. These are the same skills that students must learn when completing classroom assignments and projects. If we as educators want to show that the use of technology tools and resources are impacting student achievement, action research is the vehicle we must use to do so.

Learning Point Associates (2007). Action Research. Retrieved December 19, 2007, from: <http://www.ncrel.org/sdrs/areas/issues/envrnmnt/drugfree/sa3act.htm>



Fotini Guzma, at Pleasant Hill Elementary is studying the quality of student made videos when their productions are shares with a much larger audience than just their own classroom.



Sonia Fuentes, Central Avenue Elementary School, Osceola County

Second graders are podcasting! Sonia Fuentes second graders are techno-wizards. Ms. Fuentes has given her students time and opportunity to learn how to take what they are learning and develop their findings digitally. These amazing second graders are producing Photostory lessons, PowerPoint presentations, digital videos and podcasts. Ms. Fuentes has created a classroom environment of encouragement, purpose and educational excitement. Each day the students go to learning centers where they complete their math, reading, science and social studies assignments. Needless to say, the technology center is the favorite station. Ms. Fuentes has managed to bring in three Mac Books, three Windows desktops and a laptop connected to a SMARTboard to give the students a variety of programs to produce their products on. All presentations are curriculum based and included such topics as anger management, Halloween safety, healthy food choices, dinosaurs and much more. Ms. Fuentes really enjoys empowering her students to create videos. She entered over 50 short student made videos to the video awards contests and her students received numerous trophies. More important than any video award, is the engaging atmosphere that she has created in her classroom. Her students are a true example of 21st century learners and producers.



Tales from the Teachers in the Trenches, the FDEP Polk/Osceola podcast will be available soon. Watch for upcoming announcements for subscription information.

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Hubs of Learning

iTeach, iLearn, iShare

optional trainings for FDEs and collaborating teachers

Hubs of Learning afford teachers in the FDE program an opportunity to collaborate, integrate digital tools in the classroom and share with other teachers on their campus.

Optional Hubs of Learning

A very important part of teaching and learning with technology is DE streaming. Both Polk and Osceola County School District have purchased this powerful digital asset for classroom integration of technology. When teachers learn how to download video that enhances their studies and embed them into their lessons, they have taken one of the most tangible steps to truly integrating technology in the classroom. This Hubs of Learning took digital video up a notch. DE streaming is not just video downloading! It also contains over 70,000 high quality images that can be added to student and teacher projects, articles

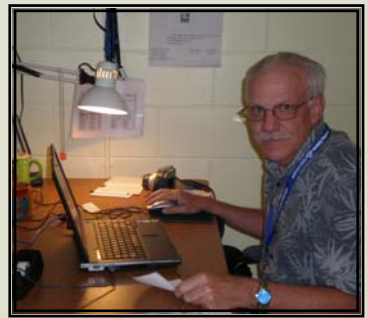
from the Funk and Wagnells New Encyclopedia, audio files, songs, speeches, clip art, lesson plans and much more.



Teachers can take advantage of creating their own digital lessons by using "The Builders": Writing Prompt Builder, Quiz Builder and Assignment Builder. Each of these Builders gives the students an electronic link to assignments that can be

completed at home, in a lab or center. The Calendar in the Teacher Center gives a "Day in History" video segment that can be used for current events or even morning announcements. The teachers also learned how to take "editable" clips and mute the audio while adding their own voice to personalize instruction. Students can also add their own voice as an excellent means of authentic assessment. In the Professional Development section, the teachers learned about FREE webinars and many one page instructions for digital programs such as Google Earth, Movie Maker or whether to embed or hyperlink a video in PowerPoint. DE streaming is clearer NOT just downloading

Tales from the Teachers in the Trenches, the first episode of the FDEP podcast, features the answer to this question, "How has technology made an impact in your classroom?"



"We have assembled a "Pod Squad" of students who create podcasts for our school. They use reading vocabulary words as the basis of their messages. They are creating the podcasts with Picasa, Audacity, Photostory and more. The part I liked the best is that they are telling me that they are downloading these programs at home and showing their families. It doesn't get any better than that!"

John Patience, Boggy Creek Elementary School, Instructional Technology Specialist



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