P.O. BOX

Polk/Osceola Best Of eXamples

Florida Digital Educator Program
A statewide integration initiative

Dawn Stancil, Lawton Chiles Middle Academy, 8th grade integrated lab *"My classes are set up so that they are full of hands-on creative activities that involve technology."*

Bob Richardson, Kissimmee Charter School, America History *"Because our school has laptops at the middle school level, every kid has a laptop or access to one. Technology is a driving force here. The kids are consistently using their laptops and checking up on what we are teaching them. You've got to be pretty quick footed."*
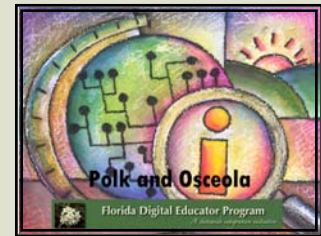
What is Podcasting?

Karen C. Seddon

Podcasting is the buzzword in education this year. As we all wrestle with the potential advantages podcasting has in the learning environment, both Polk and Osceola County have put their money where their mouth is. Teachers in Polk County can upload their podcasts to BlackBoard and teachers in Osceola County, after becoming district podcast certified, can host their podcast series on the District's Apple podcast server. Let's address two questions. **What is podcasting and why would you want to podcast?** Podcasting was coined from the iPod word meaning "**P**ortable **O**n **D**emand". A podcast gives the listener the ability to subscribe to a "show" and listen to it any time, any place and on any device - the more portable the better. The technology that makes this possible is called the RSS feed. At the bottom of any podcast is a powerful little RSS button that gives the listener the ability to subscribe to the podcast. This is especially convenient because your computer's aggregator (for most people iTunes) will have automatic updates when there is a new episode in the series. You can then listen to the podcast on your computer or simply synch your iPod or other mp3 player to your computer and you have your favorite podcast to go! Now, why would you want to podcast? Teachers are the greatest disseminators of information. Can you imagine if you created small summaries of your lesson and made them available to your students? Instead of just using their mp3 players for music, students will easily download the teachers' information. Podcasting for your parents opens an amazing form of communication. As we all attempt to become more green, why not save paper? Most of the notices we send home get lost in the black hole of the students' bookbags. What if you had an audio version that could be podcast? Administrators could also take advantage of this technology by recording their message of the month or other important notices to the community. This best advice I can give you is to become a "podcatcher" first. Start subscribing to some podcasts and get a feel for their potential in your classroom or school.

Teachers of the Year

The Florida Digital Educator Program is proud to announce our very own Teachers of the Year in both counties. Congratulations to the Polk County Teachers of the Year for their schools: **Karen Reece**, Bartow Elementary, **Lisa Richard,** Denison Middle, **Phillip Daniels**, Dundee Elementary, **Patricia Katsoulis,** Eagle Lake Elementary, **Beth Wilkin**, Fort Meade Middle Senior, **Rebecca Hansley,** Jewett Middle Academy, **Carla Campbell**, Lincoln Avenue Academy, **Sonja Skaggs**, Loughman Oaks Elementary, **Jacqueline Thomas**, and **April Brown**, Stambaugh Middle.

In Osceola County, the Florida Digital Educators selected as Teachers of the Year for their schools are: **Gail Fronczak**, Deewood Elementary, **Bryon Wong**, Zenith School, and **Stacey Poole**, Lakeview Elementary. Congratulations and thank you for all that you do to make the learning environment engaging for your students.

John Patience, Boggy Creek Elementary School, Osceola County

Mr. Patience is not just a great name, but the most perfect adjective to describe this emerging initiative taken with ten fourth graders at Boggy Creek Elementary. The Manatee Pod Squad was formed as an after school, lunch and "whenever we can get together" group whose sole purpose was to experiment with podcasting to see if there is any classroom application. The ten students were chosen by their teachers and given guidance and opportunity through Mr. Patience's direction. John is both the network specialist and instructional technology specialist for his school and needless to say, there is not a great deal of time in the day for an extra project. Mr. Patience created a most unique model for his podcasting project - **"the in-school field trip."** These podcasters filled out an official field trip permission slip. Mr. Patience brought in two chaperones, a district resource teacher and a retired educator, Janice Welch. Mrs. Welch even designed Manatee Pod Squad t-shirts for the students and adults. Two podcasts are nearing completion. One focuses on creating a butterfly garden for the school and the other describes geometry terms with pictures taken around the Boggy Creek campus. Podcasting is one of the best ways to afford students the opportunity to be designers of their learning and publishing their work to a much larger audience. Keep checking on the SDOC Podcast server on the Manatee Pod Squad blog for the finished projects. Kudos to John Patience and Janice Welsh.

Tales from the Teachers in the Trenches, the FDEP Polk/Osceola podcast is now available. To subscribe, follow the directions in the podcast article on the front page or in our PO Box wiki.

SDOC - Podcasting
http://sdoc-podcasting.osceola.k12.fl.us/
School District of Osceola County

When you arrive at the site, click Weblog. Look on the list for the Florida Digital Educator Podcast!

Optional Hubs of Learning

Windows xp Movie Maker

Learning digital video can seem overwhelming. Have no fear, using Windows Movie Maker creates an opportunity for the most novice videographer to look professional. Florida Digital Educators in both Polk and Osceola were offered a two hour hands-on experience creating a video of their own. The teachers were given three sets of files: digital images of sunrises, digital audio of copyright free music, and small digital video files of sunrises. The teachers learned to add the three types of assets to their storyboard, add transitions, titles, credits and then shared their productions with each other in a gallery walk. It is so amazing

that even though everyone had the exact same files to begin with, there were no two videos that were alike. One of the most interesting parts of the Hub was learning to take an editable clip from DE Streaming and personalize it for the classroom. One example is to mute the sound and have the teacher narrate the content. Students are amazed to hear their teacher's voice on a movie. Even better than this giving the students the opportunity to add their voice to the video. A truly authentic assessment of the student's understanding of the content of the video can be quickly determined.

Most classroom teachers feel that there is not enough time in the day to take on a video project, but learning to create in Movie Maker has removed the fear of video production. Now we just need to get out of the students' way and afford them time and opportunity to be our videographers on campus.
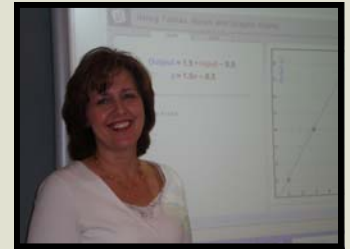
For more information, resources and training materials for Movie Maker, be sure to visit the Additional trainings section of our FDE wiki. http://pobox.pbwiki.com

Florida Digital Educator Program
A statewide integration initiative

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.

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?"*

"Technology has made my life easier. Now all I do is a click and a drag and everything I need is on my SmartBoard. When I can make Algebra something that kids walk our of class saying, 'Wow, that was a lot of fun," I know I'm on to something. With the Airliner, I can engage students who never participated in class before and are now begging to do problems. The graphing calculators have changed the conversations in class to the connections between the data and real life . We get to the real meat of the subject much more quickly. The main thing is to watch their enthusiasm."

Donna Jones, *Lawton Chiles Middle Academy, 8th grade math*

FLORIDA DIGITAL EDUCATORS

Visit our website at
www.imc.osceola.k12.fl.us/EETT