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VITAL News

Virginia Initiative for Technology and Administrative Leadership



Workshop Opportunities

Summer is the time for...

Summer is just around the corner! As you plan your vacation and think about what you want to accomplish during the summer months, don't forget about VITAL! We have many worthwhile workshops just perfect for summer learning that we would love to bring to your division. We are also happy to customize workshops based on each division's particular needs.

Evaluating and Encouraging Technology Integration: This training session focuses on the integral relationship of instruction and technology. Participants review the foundations of good instruction and then discover how a variety of hardware and software can support instructional strategies. The main goal is to help administrators learn to evaluate technology integration in their classroom observations.

Using Technology to Enhance Instructional Leadership Skills and Competency: This hands-on training teaches principals and supervisors how they can use technology to lead their schools to meet the challenges of the Virginia Standards of Learning and the No Child Left Behind legislation. The emphasis is on acquiring the knowledge and skills needed to help teachers in all the content areas teach lessons that are aligned with the Standards of Learning.

PDA's, Microscopes and Probes: Want a chance to learn about some new technologies and find out how they can be applied in the classroom? Then this workshop is for you. We'll explore both hardware and software resources including handhelds and digital microscopes. For those divisions who may be purchasing handhelds, we can arrange training for administrators that demonstrate the many uses of these devices for educators.

Copyright and Legal Issues for Administrators: Participants in this workshop will learn about various areas of legal and ethical issues that apply to K-12 schools. If you're not sure about fair use or how the digital millennium copyright act affects you and your faculty, this workshop will help clear up these sometimes murky waters.

This is just a sampling of recent VITAL workshops. We also offer training in technology planning, the Level of Technology Integration (LoTi) and other topics designed to help administrators become technology leaders in their buildings and their divisions.

If you are interested in scheduling a VITAL follow up session, please contact Karen Richardson at karen@ivyrun.com. Let VITAL be part of your summer!

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Finding Resources on the Web

At several recent workshops, administrators asked me the same question: Where can I go to find high quality websites to share with my faculty?

Rather than starting at [Google](#) and just typing in search words, spend some time thinking about organizations related to a particular curriculum area.

Professional organizations can be excellent starting points. For example, the [National Council of Teachers of English](#) sponsor the [ReadWriteThink](#) website designed for K-8 language arts teachers and students. The site includes lessons and links to additional web resources.

For math and science teachers, the [Eisenhower National Clearinghouse for Mathematics and Science Education](#) website provides lessons, links, and resources. The monthly Digital Dozen features 12 websites each month.

The [Library of Congress](#) is a wonderful spot for social studies teachers. The American Memory Collection includes primary sources, a host of images from American history as well as audio and video resources.

Finally, our own [Virginia Department of Education website](#) is chock full of education resources. For instance, ePAT is a new set of online practice assessments and tutorials designed to help students prepare for the English: Reading/Literature & Research and English: Writing (multiple choice only) end-of-course Standards of Learning tests. The [Division of Instructions webpage](#) is always being updated with new resources related to the SOL.

These are just a few starting points. If you have other good curriculum portals, please share them with me so I can post them to the [VITAL blog](#). Just email them to karen@ivyrun.com.

Tech Toys

Handheld Scanners and Digital Microscopes

This month, the *VITALNews* features one new piece and one not-so-new piece of hardware.

Wizcom Technologies is the leader in handheld scanning and recognition technologies. They offer several products. My favorite is the "Super Pen." A fully portable, pen-shaped scanner, the Super Pen is both a text scanner as well as a dictionary. Users can scan up to 3,000 pages of text that can be easily transferred to the computer. The dictionary can define and translate using free dictionaries available from Wizcom. Learn more by visiting Wizcom online at

<http://www.wizcomtech.com/index.php3>

During VITAL kickoff sessions, we often demonstrate the QX3 digital microscope. Unfortunately, Intel, the original manufacturer, stopped making them last year. Now they are back so those of you who have been waiting to buy a few for your division can go ahead and order them from Digital Blue.

The company also makes several other digital products including the Digital Movie Creator and the PC Animation Station. Visit Digital Blue online at <http://playdigitalblue.com/home/> The microscopes are available at a variety of both online and at traditional bricks and mortar storefronts like Target, Circuit City and Toys R Us.