



April 2005
Volume 2 ■ Issue 5

SISD

Technology Unplugged

Mignon Plyler
SISD Director of Technology

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"Our children...are the latest model of human being. Looking at the world of children is not looking backward at our own past—it's looking ahead. They are our evolutionary future"
- Doug Rushkoffman

Welcome to the April edition of the Sherman ISD Technology Unplugged newsletter. In the next few weeks the teachers of Sherman ISD will have the opportunity to complete the Texas Teacher STaR Chart. (see p. 2 for more details) The STaR chart will allow you to provide insight into the use of technology in your classroom and how it supports student achievement. Each teacher will complete the STaR chart individually. In June each principal will use the teacher data to complete a STaR chart for their respective campuses. The campus data will be used to update the Sherman ISD technology plan as well as provide useful data for updating campus improvement plans.

When you think about technology and education, do you consider technology as just another "thing" you have to do, or do you consider it as a tool that can transform your classroom into a dynamic learning environment? Often times we concentrate on "integrating technology" like it is a foreign object we might use, if we have time, or if we can figure it out, or if we can make it apply. I would challenge you to consider the technology tools you have available to you in your classroom as windows of opportunity to teach in a new way and make learning come alive for your students. Just think of the amount of information available to our students, at the touch of their fingertips, via the Internet. Technology allows us to interact with the global community within the four walls of our school buildings.

- Being able to use technology is a prerequisite for success in the global and digital economy of the 21st century. Try to imagine any profession that does not rely on some level of expertise with technology.
- The computer extends learning beyond the school's four walls—computers can move with the student from the classroom to the library to the home, extending a teacher's reach and making learning opportunities ever-present.
- Computers and the Internet provide a vast library of resources: informational, computational, and cultural.
- Computers bring the resources of the world to learners. The use of computers and the Internet in the classroom allows students to collaborate with other students, educators, and experts in the field.
- Technology tools help teachers enrich their lessons with multimedia to address auditory, kinesthetic, and visual modes of learning.

Summer Technology Training

The next scheduled technology training will be held during the summer. Watch for the SISD Summer 2005 Staff Development catalog for the classes and dates. See the back page for a sneak preview of some of the technology classes that will be offered this summer.

see list of classes on page 5...

Oh, and last but not least...
Technology can help make learning EXCITING & FUN!



<http://www.shermanisd.net>

Texas Teacher STaR Chart



A special online resource tool called the Texas Teacher STaR Chart has been developed to assist all Texas teachers in self-assessing efforts to effectively integrate technology across the curriculum. Its purpose is to assist all classroom teachers in assessing needs and setting goals for the use of technology in the classroom to support student achievement.

This tool will be useful in fulfilling the requirements in No Child Left Behind, Title II, Part D, that all teachers should be technology literate and integrate technology across the curriculum. The legislation also requires that all students should be technology literate by the time they leave the eighth grade. The Texas Teacher STaR Chart focuses on the areas addressed in the Texas Long-Range Plan for Technology, 1996-2010. Primarily the Chart focuses in the areas of Teaching and Learning as well as Educator Preparation and Development. In these areas there are four levels of progress, Early Tech, Developing Tech, Advanced Tech, and the highest level, Target Tech. The goal for all Texas teachers is to reach the Target Tech level of the STaR Chart. In addition, the STaR Chart includes the other two areas addressed in the Long-Range Plan – Administration and Support Services and Infrastructure for Technology. In these two areas, the STaR Chart focuses on the teacher's perception of the learning environment. Again the Target Tech level is the goal.

- A **Target Tech** classroom has **students** who work collaboratively on complex authentic tasks, communicate globally with peers and experts and meet the Technology Applications TEKS.
- A **Target Tech** classroom has a **teacher** who meets 100% of SBEC Tech Apps Standards, is at the "Invention" stage of technology use, and seamlessly and appropriately integrates technology consistently for student learning.
- A **Target Tech campus** has just-in-time technical and instructional support, six multimedia Internet computers in every classroom, 'on-demand', anywhere, anytime access for every student, and a variety of distance learning opportunities.

This first year is a benchmark year for the Texas Teacher STaR Chart. All teachers in Sherman ISD will complete the STaR Chart during the period of April 25th through May 20th. The Technology Department will be coming to your campus to assist all teachers in completing the STaR Chart online. <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/starchart>

Target Tech *Sample Performance Descriptions*

- Teacher and students use text, graphics, animation, multimedia and/or video to acquire information, solve problems and communicate their learning.
- Teacher and students use appropriate technologies as a natural and necessary way of gaining knowledge and understanding. Teacher and students access and use student performance data online for evaluation and self-assessment purposes.
- Teachers and students work together to create a community of inquiry which includes internal and external resource people. The collaborative team works together to generate productive solutions to meaningful problems and to add and enhance the base of knowledge related to common interests. This community of learners may work at home, at school or other appropriate place with essential, networked technologies and resources.
- Teacher and students focus on content-based learning using developmentally appropriate instructional strategies in a community of learners. Technology skills are integrated into the collaborative work of this community. Together the community works to solve real problems and to communicate the learning in diverse yet suitable ways.
- Teacher uses a variety of technology tools to seamlessly integrate curriculum TEKS and TA TEKS in content-based learning.
- All students have access to and use appropriate technology to meet their diverse learning needs.
- Teacher continues to participate in professional development experiences, shares lesson plans and instructional strategies and mentors colleagues.
- Teacher is proficient in all five of the SBEC Technology Applications Standards. See the standards at <http://www.sbec.state.tx.us/SBECOnline/standtest/standards/techapp.pdf>
- Teacher is considered an expert in content and technology knowledge and integrates both daily in instruction. Teacher models lessons, mentors those in need of assistance and presents to teachers, parents and community members.
- Teacher and students determine professional development needs, develop a plan to meet the needs, implement the plan and evaluate learning.
- Teacher uses technology tools in new and different ways. Learning becomes more collaborative, interactive and customized.
- Within an on-going professional growth plan, teacher initiates, participates in and documents proficiency which supports student achievement.

Producer Training Highlights

Many SISD teachers throughout the district have taken advantage of Microsoft Producer training this year. Producer for Microsoft Office PowerPoint 2003 makes it easy to capture, synchronize, and publish audio, video, slides, and images. It is a popular add-on for Microsoft PowerPoint XP and is the ideal tool for creating engaging presentations by combining video with your presentations.

During March training, Brenda Neyman came to share some of the Producer projects the Piner Middle School students have created. The students in Mrs. Neyman's Advanced Tech class have used Producer for a variety of projects. They created a presentation "All about Piner" highlighting the staff, schedules, and programs, to send to the students at Dillingham Intermediate. The students also used Producer to create a "how-to" lesson.

Among the trainees there have been counselors, challenge, technology and PK-12th grade teachers. Producer is a program that fits into all subjects. The Summer Technology Camp teachers have also been trained and plan to use this with the students this summer. Watch for Microsoft Producer training information in the Summer Staff Development booklet. Don't miss out on your chance to be trained with this powerful tool!



What's so different about the 21st Century?

enGauge 21st Century Skills

Digital-Age Literacy

- Basic, Scientific, Economic, and Technological Literacies
- Visual and Information Literacies
- Multicultural Literacy and Global Awareness

Inventive Thinking

- Adaptability, Managing Complexity, and Self-Direction
- Curiosity, Creativity, and Risk-taking
- Higher-order Thinking and Sound Reasoning

Academic
Achievement

Effective Communication

- Teaching, Collaboration, and Interpersonal Skills
- Personal, Social, and Civic Responsibility
- Interactive Communication

High Productivity

- Prioritize, Plan, Manage for Results
- Effective Use of Real-world Tools
- Relevant, High-quality Products

modeled after NCREL/Metiri Group
<http://www.metiri.com/features.html>

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Creating a CD Case Calendar

Teddy Pitman, Special Projects Facilitator

TEKS & SE: Math 11.15
11.A, D; 12.A
Tech 126.2
2.D, 6.B, 7.B,
10.B

Suggested Grade Level: K-12

Subject: Math and Technology
Materials: Digital Camera
Scanner
Publisher
CD Cases



Objective: The students will use a digital camera and or scanner, photo editing skills, and Microsoft Publisher to create a calendar.

Overview: This is a good classroom project using Microsoft Publisher. It can be used as a parent gift for Mother's Day, Christmas, etc. Below are links to two different templates. The calendar template for Mother's Day begins with May 2005 and goes through December 2006. The other template is 2006 only. These directions use photographs for the pictures, but you may also use clipart. This project can be adjusted to fit different levels. Younger students can insert a picture and change the border color on each page. Older students can be more creative.

The Calendar Jewel Cases are available in the SISD Warehouse. They are \$.41 each and the stock number is MER000020. Please contact Marvin for more information. They may be ordered through your campus budget with a purchase order.

Procedure: Open the CD Case Calendar Template that you want to use. Go to File, Save As. Choose Desktop as the place to save it. Change the File name to CD Case Calendar (Your name). Click Save. Then continue following the *Directions for Creating CD Case Calendar*.

2006 Calendar Template:

<http://www.shermanisd.net/tech/CDCaseCalendar-2006.pub>

May 2005-December 2006 Template:

<http://www.shermanisd.net/tech/CDCaseCalendar-2005-06.pub>

Directions for Creating CD Case Calendar:

<http://www.shermanisd.net/tech/Directions-CreatingCDCaseCalendar.doc>

"Schools face the challenge of preparing students to live, learn and work successfully in today's knowledge-based digital society. To do so will require high-performance learning of academic content using 21st century skills and tools."

- Partnership for the 21st Century

Digital Photography *Symmetry*

Amy Elliott, SISD Technology Integration Specialist

TEKS & SE: Math 111.15
9.A-C
Tech 1262-3
3.10B,3.11A,
4.7B, 5.7C

Suggested Grade Level: 2-6

Subject: Math, Writing,
Technology
Materials: Digital Camera,
PowerPoint



Objective: The students will use a digital camera, photo editing skills and PowerPoint to show their understanding of symmetry.

Procedure: Students work in pairs or groups to take portraits of each other using a digital camera. The students then download their picture or their friend's picture to their "My Documents" folder. *Tip: Try to get the students to look directly at the camera and to avoid tilting their heads.*

Open PowerPoint:

The students will insert the picture and resize as desired. They then will select the picture and right-click to copy & then paste. They will now have two pictures alike. *It is important to not resize the pictures after it has been copied.*

Select the copied picture. Use the cropping tool to crop exactly half of the picture (from right to left).

Select the cropped half and copy and paste. Now the students have two identical halves. Select the piece on the right and click the "Draw" button in the lower left hand corner; point to "Rotate and Flip" and choose "Flip Horizontally". The student will then put the two pictures together to see the symmetrical face!

Repeat the steps to see the line of symmetry with the other side of the student's face!

Assessment: Check for understanding of the meaning of a line of symmetry. The photos can also be incorporated into a fun writing project or prompt.



Are we symmetrical?

Summer Technology Training

The next scheduled technology training will be held during the summer. Watch for the SISD Summer 2005 Staff Development catalog for the classes, dates, and times.

Technology Applications

Word XP
PowerPoint XP
Excel XP
Publisher XP
PrintShop 11
Netscape Composer
Adobe Acrobat
Adobe Photoshop
Excelsior Grade Book: 5th-12th

Technology Best Practices

Start Pages
Microsoft PowerPoint United with Video:
Microsoft Producer
Digital Gadgets

Digital Photography
PreK-First Grade Technology Best Practices
Second Grade Technology Best Practices
Third Grade Technology Best Practices
Fourth Grade Technology Best Practices
Macromedia Dreamweaver
Electronic Curriculum
Teaching Macromedia Flash
Kids + Computers ? Chaos
Scavenger Hunts
Accelerated Math
Using TrackStar and NoteStar
Create Your own Online Quizes, Work outlines and Rubrics Using Free Tools
Classroom Management Using Available Technology
Using Microsoft Office for Classroom Management
Timelines and Bar Graphs Using Microsoft Excel

SHS art work submitted by Mary Hensler's Graphics Design class. Artist SHS Junior, Zach Robbins

pictured SHS Freshman Melanie Shumate



The **Long-Range Plan for Technology, 1996-2010** outlines a comprehensive vision for education in Texas for the 21st Century.

Imagine a home...

...where every parent – regardless of native language or socio-economic background – can communicate readily with teachers about children's progress and access resources to support work toward a degree or job training without leaving home or work.

Imagine a school...

...where every student – regardless of zip code, economic level, age, race, ethnicity, ability or disability – can be immersed in the sights, sounds, and languages of other countries; visit museums; research knowledge webs from the holding of dispersed libraries; and explore the inner workings of cells from inside the cell or the cold distance of outer space from inside a "virtual" spacesuit.

Imagine a district...

...where every educator – regardless of subject, experience, or district location, size or wealth – can get hands-on training instantaneously, when or where he or she needs it; interact with a virtual community of professional colleagues; and have access to financial data and student performance information as well as the analytical tools to use that information effectively.

Imagine a state...

...where every community member can visit the doctor for an examination and needed laboratory tests while at home or work; collaborate with work colleagues at distant sites about complex data sets or video graphics; search primary source

materials on an event half-way around the world; and take a high school or college course with fellow students from Port Arthur to El Paso by communicating rather than commuting.

For more information about the Texas Long-Range Plan for Technology click on the following link:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/technology/lrpt/index.html>

Sherman Independent School District
120 West King Street
Sherman, TX 75090
903.891.6400



Superintendent: Dr. Rodney Hutto
SISD Technology Unplugged is published monthly by the SISD Technology Department for all of the district employees, the Board of Education and interested patrons.

Director of Technology: Mignon Plyler
<http://www.shermanisd.net>
SISD Technology Department: 903.891.6423

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