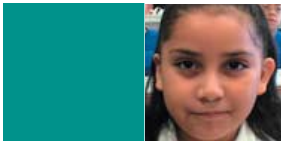


October 2004
Volume 2 ■ Issue 2

SISD

Technology Unplugged



SISD Technology Training

Welcome to the October edition of SISD Technology Unplugged. This edition has several articles spotlighting technology use at several Sherman ISD campuses. If you are using technology in your classroom and would like to share with others, please send your stories, samples of student work or pictures to Amy Elliott in the SISD technology department for inclusion in the SISD technology newsletter.

If you have accessed your SISD computer today, you may have noticed that periodically (approximately every 7 minutes) your computer locks and you are required to enter your password. This policy has been implemented on the SISD network as a security measure. Perhaps you step away from your computer to monitor passing periods, take

The following SISD technology training is being offered. The training will count for three CPE points. Training will be held at Austin College. If you need a sub for a class, you will need to call the Sub Line. It will be counted as Professional Development. Please clear absence with your principal before registering. If you wish to attend one of these sessions, email announcements@shermanisd.net.

The Technology Department strives to meet the needs of all employees. If you are unable to attend training, use the technology helpdesk system and request "just in time" training scheduled at your convenience.

- Excel XP Basics
October 28, 8:15-11:15 a.m.
- PK-1st Grade Technology Integration
November 4, 8:15-11:15 a.m.
- 2nd Grade Technology Integration
November 4, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
- 3rd Grade Technology Integration
November 15, 8:15-11:15 a.m.
- 4th Grade Technology Integration
November 15, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
- Word XP Basics
November 16, 8:15-11:15 a.m.
- PowerPoint XP Basics
November 17, 8:15-11:15 a.m.

See summary of classes on page 6...

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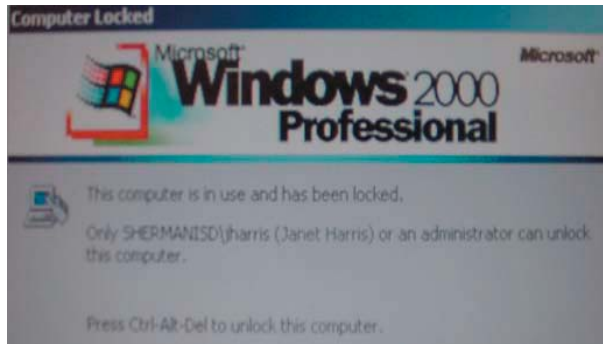
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a phone call, attend a meeting, etc. and your computer is logged in. Anyone sitting down at your computer has access to all your data, your email and any other information on your computer. Although this may be a slight inconvenience, it is for the protection of you, your data, and the SISD network. Because student log ins have a different level of access, they will not be effected by this policy. We appreciate your patience as we strive to create a safe and secure computing environment in Sherman ISD.

Mignon Plyler
SISD Director of Technology



<http://www.shermanisd.net>

Best Practice:

Technology - when used effectively - can enable ways of teaching that are more closely matched to how children learn.

Technology Standards for Teachers

Texas Technology Standards for Teachers

Janet Harris,
SISD Technology Integration Specialist

Texas Education Agency recognizes that educators today are preparing students for occupations that have yet to be defined. No matter what those occupations will be, it is certain that technology will continue to play a major role both in students' lives today and in their future. Texas is striving to ensure that all teachers learn how to integrate technology effectively. In order to be successful in the 21st century, students, teachers, and administrators, must become skilled in the use of educational technology for problem solving, critical thinking and learning new content. TEA recommends that current educators strive to meet the standards in Technology Applications.

The Technology Applications Standards for teachers are as follows:

1. All teachers use technology-related terms, concepts, data input strategies, and ethical practices to make informed decisions about current technologies and their applications.
2. All teachers identify task requirements, apply search strategies, and use current technology to efficiently acquire, analyze, and evaluate a variety of electronic information.
3. All teachers use task-appropriate tools to synthesize knowledge, create and modify solutions, and evaluate results in a way that supports the work of individuals and groups in problem-solving situations.
4. All teachers communicate information in different formats and for diverse audiences.
5. All teachers know how to plan, organize, deliver, and evaluate instruction for all students that incorporates the effective use of current technology for teaching and integrating the Technology Applications Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) into the curriculum.

For more information on Teacher Technology Standards go to:

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/technology/ta/edstd.html>



Checkpoint Writing at SISD

Teachers from all over the district came together to write this year's first checkpoint test. Teachers will reconvene November 9-11 to create the district's second checkpoint tests.



Slugging at Fairview Elementary

"What to say....The Slug It feature has been a great addition this year. I have been looking forward to using it since hearing about it in my first AEIS IT training. It is working well and has allowed our staff to spend time normally used on filling in answer documents on other things. It also cuts down on errors in the bubbling process, which saves time when answer documents are scanned."

Thomas O'Neal, Principal



Technology Integration with United Streaming

Janet Harris, Technology Integration Specialist
Amy Elliott, Technology Integration Specialist

United Streaming is a digital video-on-demand service produced by Discovery Education and brought to us by Region 10. United Streaming is designed to enhance lesson plans by bringing video, teacher guides, activities, and much more over the Internet. The Technology Department is offering training so teachers can setup class accounts, learn to manage the program, as well as, create awesome lessons using video. At this time SISD Technology Department has established a policy for using United Streaming. The policy states that all streaming and downloading take place after 3:00 p.m. due to the band width used during these procedures. The Technology Department is working on a solution to allow unlimited use of this services. Please see your campus technology specialist for your campus passcode.

<http://www.unitedstreaming.com>

"I use United Streaming everyday with my students. It is an awesome teaching tool and right at my fingertips."

Betsye Stewart,
Jefferson Kindergarten
Teacher

TECHNOLOGY NIGHT AT CRUTCHFIELD ELEMENTARY

Jennifer Parker, Technology Specialist

The students and faculty at Crutchfield Elementary wanted to share their excitement for technology with parents and other community members. They decided the best way to do this was to hold a Tech Night. So, on Thursday, September 30th, they did just that! Nineteen teachers, two Central Office staff, and four students conducted sessions over the various technologies available to the students and faculty of Crutchfield. Parents and other community members could attend any of the following sessions:

- United Streaming
- Digital Cameras
- Word
- Excel
- PowerPoint
- Publisher
- Accelerated Reader and STAR
- Accelerated Math
- Riverdeep Math
- SISD Webpage/Crutchfield Webpage
- Local Crutchfield Webpage and Learning.com
- Type to Learn
- Kid Works Deluxe
- Rosetta Stone
- Edmark Reading
- Reading Recovery Technology
- Hardware and Network
- Media Retrieval
- Athena
- Electronic Bulletin
- Tech Team
- Community Computer and Parenting Classes

In addition to learning about the technologies available at Crutchfield, guests could also roam the "Vendor Hall"

to learn about the technologies and community resources available from local businesses and agencies. Vendor participants included:

- ISC Technologies
- Computek Computers
- Office Depot
- Toys-R-Us
- Child Guidance Center
- Juvenile Alternatives
- Camp Fire for Boys and Girls
- Girl Scouts
- Girl Inc.
- 4-H

One of the main attractions of Tech Night was signing up for Crutchfield's community computer and parenting classes. Some of the classes available for enrollment included:

- Computer Basics
- Email
- Making Labels in Word
- TAK 101
- Structuring a School-Friendly Home

At the end of the evening, door prizes were drawn. Guests had the opportunity to win a wireless keyboard and mouse, a DVD burner, a printer, and more. Overall, everyone who attended or presented agreed it was a success. It exposed the public to all the great technology resources available at Crutchfield and many of the guests expressed how much they learned from the experience. Plans are already in the making for next year's big night... and as with everything in technology; it should be better, faster, and more innovative than the year before.



SHS Bits and Bytes

Excelsior Gradebook

*Jimmie Pilcher,
SHS Technology Specialist*

Give up my hardcopy Gradebook? Sherman High School teachers are all abuzz about the new electronic grading capabilities.

The Excelsior Pinnacle Gradebook 2 Software has been available for years in this district, but only at SHS as a stand alone system.

This year SHS teachers have gone on-line with the network version. In preparing for the roll out of this new process, approximately 85 SHS teachers attended a hands-on training during their conference periods on September 8 and 9. Teachers learned how to create classes, define assignments and customize grading functionality. For the past couple of weeks the teachers have been defining their classroom assignments for this six weeks grading period in the gradebook software and posting all of the student's grades.

A follow-up training session was held

on September 22 and 23 to explain how six weeks grade submissions will be handled. Once again, teachers logged on during their conference periods and performed hands-on training by submitting grades, overwriting averages, and coding for incompletes. This training proved very beneficial and provided an occasion for teachers to get dedicated assistance and personal one-on-one attention.

SHS Science Lab

Coach Keel's biology class has gone online with learning. The lab has 12 computers and the students are working online to complete their biology labs.



Electronic Textbook Check-out

*Beth Weeks,
Dillingham Technology Specialist*

This summer over 15,000 books were bar coded awaiting the arrival of students to check them out the week before school began. Carolyn Guynes and a group of helpers placed bar codes in all textbooks and entered them into the Athena system.



Students arrived and picked up their schedules and ID badges. Then students came to the book table where their ID badges were scanned using hand-held devices. Then each book was scanned and checked out to the student. Students left at the end of the day with schedules, parking permits, lockers assignments, ID badges and textbooks ready to start the first day of classes.



This process will streamline the process of checking out and checking in books so that teachers will not have to worry with book cards and tracking books.

Integrating Technology TEKS

Cherry Jones, Jefferson Elementary Technology Specialist

Melinda Green, Jefferson Elementary teacher, loops with her students. Ms. Green loops from third to fourth grade. Therefore she has her students for two years. She started her students with technology in third grade by going to the computer lab every Thursday. They began by learning to keyboard using Microsoft Word and Type To Learn.



Their final project before moving to fourth grade was to make student name badges. Ms. Green used the digital camera to take pictures of each student. The students learned how to make cards on Print Shop. They used their picture, added a text box with their information, and printed with the color printer. Ms. Green has a small laminator and each child laminated their tag and wears it on lanyards for their 4th grade identification badge. The students enjoy being official like the teachers. These cards come in handy when there are substitutes or speakers in the class.

Aaron Morales proudly displays his badge.



Amy Elliott,
SISD Technology Integration Specialist



The Rosetta Stone language software offers language solutions for individuals and institutions worldwide. Sherman ISD has this program throughout the district for our ESL (English as a Second Language) students. Rosetta Stone's Dynamic Immersion method works by simulating the natural language learning process we all experienced as children. No translation. No memorization. No drills or lists. With instruction exclusively in the English language, the students start thinking in the new language from the very first lesson. The association of pictures, native speaker voices and text allows them to master basic vocabulary quickly. And this in turn acts as a foundation on which to build words, phrases, sentences, and grammatical structures in the English language only.

The teacher manages their students so that all students are working at their own pace with the appropriate objectives. Within each lesson there are a variety of different activities that concentrate on listening comprehension, reading comprehension, speaking or writing:

Listening:

Dynamic Immersion teaches them to link speech directly with meaning. Match the spoken phrase and the image correctly and the meaning is clear. No translation or memorization. The words have meaning. The image has a name.

Reading:

Reading comprehension parallels the comprehension of speech. Rosetta Stone develops reading skills by presenting written text without spoken-language support. Match words to the image and the computer verifies the meaning.

Speaking:

Speaking a new language is the learner's most rewarding challenge. Speech Recognition records their voice and plays it back for comparison with the voice of the native speaker. A graded meter quickly assesses their proficiency and a voiceprint analyzes their pronunciation in detail.

Dictation:

Dictation uses the computer to check their written work for accuracy. They click on the picture and write what they hear. The program indicates errors and allows them to correct their work before they proceed.



Debra Orsburn, Jefferson Elementary ESL teacher, goes above and beyond when it comes to community service. Monday and Friday mornings, Mrs. Orsburn uses her conference periods to teach Jefferson parents, grandparents, and community members the English language using Rosetta Stone.



What you need to know about *Phishing !*

Published: May 27, 2004 | Updated: July 8, 2004
<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/spam/phishing.msp>

Just when you thought it was safe to go back into your inbox, there's a new form of spam on the horizon. This spam is more than just unsolicited and annoying. It could lead to the theft of your credit card numbers, passwords, account information, or other personal information. Read on to find out more about this new identity theft scam and to learn how to help protect your personal information.

What is phishing?

Phishing is a type of deception designed to steal your identity. In a phishing scam, a malicious person tries to get information like credit card numbers, passwords, account information, or other personal information from you by convincing you to give it to them under false pretenses. Phishing schemes usually come via spam email or pop-up windows.

How does phishing work?

Phishing works by the malicious user sending millions of bogus emails that appear to come from popular Web sites or from sites that you trust, like your bank or credit card company. The emails, and the Web sites they often send you to, look official enough that they deceive many people into believing that they're legitimate. Believing that these emails are legitimate, unsuspecting people too often respond to the email's requests for their credit card numbers, passwords, account information, or other personal information.

To make these emails look even more real, a scam artist might put a link in a fake email that appears to go to the legitimate Web site, but actually takes you to a scam site or even a pop-up window that looks exactly like the official site. These copies are often called "spoofed Web sites." Once you're at one of these spoofed sites you might unwittingly enter even more personal information that will be transmitted directly to the person who created the site, who might then use this information to purchase goods, apply for a new credit card, or steal your identity.

5 Steps to Help Avoid Phishing Scams:

- Never respond to requests for personal information via email.
- Visit Web sites by entering the URL into your address bar.
- Check to make sure the Web site is using encryption.
- Routinely review your credit card and bank statements.
- Report suspected abuses to the proper authorities.

SISD Technology Training Opportunities

Basic Technology Training

Thursday, October 28, 8:15-11:15 a.m.

Excel XP Basics

Learn how to create basic spreadsheets in Excel XP. Learn how to navigate, edit, apply formatting, create formulas, create and modify charts, set page display and printing options, and use the new task pane.

Tuesday, November 16, 8:15-11:15 a.m.

Word XP Basics

Learn how to create a document, edit and format text, format paragraphs and add tables using the new task pane feature in Word XP. Learn some timesavers and how to set page display and printing options. Also learn to use the Draw toolbar, insert graphics and create WordArt in the new format.

Wednesday, November 17, 8:15-11:15 a.m.

PowerPoint XP Basics

Learn how to create presentations in PowerPoint XP. This includes creating, formatting and editing slides; adding clip art, charts, AutoShapes, and WordArt; and arranging, animating and adding transitions all using the new task pane.

Technology Integration Training

November 4th and 15th specific grade level technology integration training will be offered. Participants will learn ways to integrate the Technology TEKS into all subject areas appropriate for their grade level. Learners will go beyond the basics of Word, PowerPoint, and Excel to enhance their curriculum. There will be an abundance of lesson ideas, examples and hands-on activities that provide student-centered project based learning.

Thursday, November 4, 8:15-11:15 a.m.

PK-1st Grade Technology Integration

Thursday, November 4, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

2nd Grade Technology Integration

Monday, November 15, 8:15-11:15 a.m.

3rd Grade Technology Integration

Monday, November 15, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

4th Grade Technology Integration

Sherman Independent School District
120 West King Street
Sherman, TX 75091
(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.

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