

Technology Tidbits

connect → research → abstract → analyze → communicate → collaborate → create

Bring STEM To Your Classroom

Science, Technology, Engineering, Math- in today’s world, these topics are no longer just taught in the classrooms that bear their names. Everyone can do **STEM** activities and tie them to their own subject matter. I realize not all of you have some of these materials handy, but for those who do, and for those who are adventurous and want to incorporate more STEM, [here are some suggestions](#). Ages and supplies vary.



It’s A Crazy Time Of Year

As we head toward vacation, the student energy rises while our own energy tumbles. It’s easy to reach for familiar “quiet” activities or videos that seem to keep things manageable while sort of engaging them. Why not capitalize on their energy and allow them some creative ways to demonstrate knowledge without you having to talk for hours on end or watch the same video 5 times in one day?

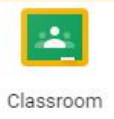
A short activity or project where you have them use their ipads to create an end product will get them focusing their energy and letting their imaginations soar. Don’t worry about discovering new apps or having to show them what to do. Students have learned about enough apps that they could satisfy your requirements in a number of ways. An example might be: Instead of saying “we’re going to use Book Creator today”, try saying “ok, we’re going to create wish lists for the holidays. I want you to *include some pictures* of what you want, *write some text* about why you need these gifts in your life and *make a video* trying to plead your case. Which apps could we use to do this?” You’ll be surprised how many they come up with. (FYI- this is how I used to learn about apps. I’d ask kids what they use in other classes!) **Let them choose** how they get to the final product and you’ll see their attitudes change. They’ll take more ownership.

Set your parameters and a time limit for the project and let them work on it in class instead of doing the same activity you usually do. I promise you’ll like the

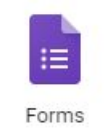
results

Google Forms In G Classroom

If you use Google Classroom, you might have noticed that under the CREATE button it now says QUIZ ASSIGNMENT below ASSIGNMENT. [Here’s a brief screencast](#) that shows you what it is and how it works.



If you aren’t using Google Forms, or if you use it a little bit but you’re not sure how it all works, [here are some links to some videos](#) I’ve made to explain everything from the simplest thing you can do up to some neat pathways you can create based on answers to questions.



As always, if you need help, please let me know!

A Noteworthy App



Popplet is a concept mapping app that lets students map out ideas and pre plan projects, writing assignments, etc. We have the free version which means they can make one at a time. When it is complete, they save it to their photos on their ipad and then they can go back into Popplet and erase it to make another. [Watch this video to see how to use it and some neat options](#).

We currently have it in grades 3-5. If you think this is something your students would use in grade 6-12, please let me know and we can add it. It’s free, so if it’s not on your ipad and you’d like to try it out, look for the Popplet Lite app and give it a whirl.

What is MassCUE?

You might have heard people say that they learned something at MassCUE and maybe you wondered if it’s something worth joining. The CUE in MassCUE stands for Computer Using Educators, and all of us are computer using educators. I think everyone should take advantage of what MassCUE has to offer. It’s just for

people whose job is 100% technology related. Everyone needs to be involved in how technology is used in our schools.

Here’s how the organization describes itself “For those invested in educational innovation across Massachusetts, MassCUE is a resource-rich, vibrant network of educators, who provide New England’s premiere educational technology conference; provides ongoing, high-quality professional learning opportunities; fosters collaboration and builds community connection in physical and virtual spaces; recognizes innovation, excellence and courage through awards, grants, scholarships and publicity; advocates for strategic policies and programs; and partners with other organizations to further its shared objectives.”

Anyone can join and take advantage of the many resources they have. You can also view some things without joining. There’s a conference every October at Gillette Stadium, and there are also many more offerings both online and in person. I often share upcoming online courses, but there is so much more. [Visit their website for more resources](#). Take an active role in keeping up with technology.

Last Call For the 1 Credit Google Class

Begins January 3rd and meets every Thursday in January from 4-7. [Click here](#) for all of the details. Open to anyone in the district. Please register through DYPD. Please contact me if you have trouble registering.

The Tidbits

Brainpop Update: [Click here](#) for some great new resources from Brainpop for those in k-7.

Did you miss an issue? Back issue of Technology Tidbits can be found on the Technology Website. [Click here](#).

Follow @dyadvantage and @dysupt on Twitter. If you have an event coming up, please let me know so I can tweet it!

Doing something awesome with technology? Show me!

Writing a grant proposal? If it involves purchasing technology, please be sure to consult with the Technology Office first.

Did you win? [Click here](#) to find out!