

Archdiocese Technology Coordinators Meeting  
February 10, 2010

Host: James Taylor  
St. Peter Claver

Members Present:

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|----------------|--------------------------------|--|
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Is there anyone who can show us how to set up an RSS feed?

Want something that will tell you every time a web page or site has been updated: How do you do it? Just want to set up an RSS Feed to a certain URL...Needs actual feed. It was suggested to talk to tech at Benilde because he works with Edline. Find what is new on a website instead of searching through everything else. Could be trickier because of adding and subtracting on folders.

Discussed that \$1250.00 for Maintenance Program for summer cleaning for projectors - they take the machines down and they get cleaned did seem high. Clean the filters ... 2 gallon air pumps take filter out blow out filter. Mini Air Compressor to blow out filters and vac to suck up dust. Was the suggestion

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I know we decided to block Google images a few years back, I'm wondering if we can unblock it. If students need pictures, they can still use search engines like yahoo to get images, so I don't know that blocking Google really prevents much. Secondly, the students who were accessing inappropriate images have moved on. Thirdly, I'd prefer to get images through Google because their images site is so much better layered out than other sites. It's much more user friendly and has better features than some of the other sites. Is there a possibility we could open this search back up? And we don't have to make a big announcement about it; simply do it and gradually people who need it will figure it out. Not blocked by other schools – copyright issues are out there by using images for things ... Google images don't filter the content ... Google does have parental controls but allows them in way too much. Other schools suggest search engines like Ask, and Yahoo, Goodsearch – used by some ... powered by Yahoo. It's a search engine ... if the parents add on their toolbar ... gets a kickback for each hit. Not real pleased with the results. Hits have trailed off. Don't think it is as good as some of the other searches. Have seen kickback checks from them but found have to enter the name of the school each time. If purchase Goodshop gets kickbacks from there as well. There are a lot of stores represented there.

Fantage – blocked site – social networking in an animated world...have to buy stuff to have stuff ...  
Whyville - blocked. Some have Filters that are limited to 50 hits. Bandwidth taken up by social networking sites. Personal stuff – done on school machines or school bandwidth if allow social networking.

Ties convention tip – online encyclopedia through Elm. The online resources are paid for by the state until July 2012. The initial web address is: [www.elm4you.org](http://www.elm4you.org), from there you can get to the Britannica Encyclopedia and all the other resources.

MNknows.org – Elm is part of that ... a whole bunch of links to other major size search places – databases etc.

Electronic Library of Minnesota has Lots of different places to search. Kids Infobits. Powered by Infotrac. Don't need to have kids use usernames. Great homework help used to be on this site.

Delicious account. Kids can access sites that way.

South Washington County Schools. Elementary links wonderful. Also have secondary links.

Policy on Technology Change and Management – some have a policy but people don't want to follow it. Can't install anything without IT knowing.

E-Rate Discussion: – spent hours and hours to prep tech plans, filings, planning etc. Got a legacy grant and hired a consultant and still had to do around 125 hours on their own. There is a push to get a full time person at the archdiocese to do e-rates and someone for grants. Just knowing which grants are available is a full time job. E-rate is a 7-8 month process from start to finish. If you are in the right position it is worth it to do. Universal services – use tech plan structured around these on website. Hardest part of doing a tech plan you don't know where you will be in three years or where technology will be in three years. Nice part of doing three year plan can spread out over three years. Would be nice for this to be addressed at the Archdiocese level.

E 2020 for Middle School. Replace 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade instructors with a managerial instructor and assistance. Glitch was that curriculum wasn't up to par...didn't complete all curriculum for 6<sup>th</sup> grade standards so it was hard to begin using program for those who weren't at 6<sup>th</sup> grade level. Using it 60 percent of the time ... doing traditional teaching and using text books and combining with application E 2020 – log in and go to a lesson and have a list of things to do for the lesson ... watch a lecture and then either a quiz, assessment, or homework...other instructions. Traditional teachers are more against the E2020 than the non-traditional teachers. Will see analysis after 1<sup>st</sup> year to see what worked and what didn't work with this test year. (Grading is done based on test taken on line)...  
Researching to see if there are better applications to do what they want it to do other than E2020. St Thomas uses this application in some of its classes – Fr. Kevin works close with St. Thomas.

Wireless projectors – in general like the short through over wireless. Interference between other wireless frequencies could cause issues. Not really worth what you have to pay for it ...but are right for the right environment.

GOOGLE APPS AT MARCH MEETING:

Perhaps I can talk about Google Apps in March, if people are still interested? Maybe Katie Atlas (and anyone else using GApps) can join that meeting and we can discuss our experiences... Jill Elfering

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I am VERY MUCH interested in Google Apps. Want to do something for storage/sharing/e-mail next year. Especially as I had to use a different e-mail address to send this out (our internet/e-mail provider has a cap of 25 recipients.)... Joan May

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Re: Google Apps - we use Google, but so far teachers have not been gung-ho on using the apps. A few use the chat service, and a few use documents, but the vast majority only use email, which they like better than our previous email. I'm not big on pushing new things if there is not an interest in it, so we might not use many apps. For students I would be interested in looking into how Google Apps could benefit them. I have suggested providing school only email accounts for students, but no one else here seems interested in the idea. – George Charlton.

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Faithful Shepherd has started using Google Docs in the middle school (6-8) and so far the teachers and kids have been all for it. Benefits for us include not having to have MS office or Open Office on select computers, no compatibility issues between home and school (as well as the rest of the world), and there's no excuse for a broken printer. All of the student's documents are handed in electronically. Some of our students who lose papers and handouts are finding Google Apps to be beneficial since it's stored in one place and can be accessed from anywhere. Google is also making it easier by allowing uploading of any document format for sharing. Teachers are uploading current vocab lists, instruction sheets, and whatever else they want to Google Docs and sharing it with the kids. From the administrative side it takes no server space to run Google Apps and emails can be monitored as needed. Currently we have filtering setup to block emails to outside domains, swear words, and executable files. We can get much tighter and block or quarantine pictures (including clipart), word/character combinations, and most kinds of attachments. ... Nate Jorgensen

March - 10 Holy Name – Wayzata – Wendy Google apps would be great!

April – 14 St. Joseph in Waconia

May – CEFM