



Technology for Teacher Education Students

My teacher education students use PowerPoint® to give presentations on legal issues for their Education Governance class, and they use document cameras on a regular basis for many core subject lessons.

Submitted by Carol McLeish, Florida

Inspired Research

My fifth-grade students used Inspiration™ Software to design a research web for Black History Month. With the information they gathered, they created posters that were hung in our classroom.

Submitted by Marc Mummelthei, Iowa

Kindergarten Software Learning

My kindergarten students use KidPix to stamp patterns and sight words. Using Starfall.com®, they get extra reading practice, and they type and illustrate stories with Storybook Weaver®.

Submitted by Kim Bialoncik, Georgia

Virtual Trips and Videos

To help math students understand what a pyramid looks like, I took them on a virtual field trip to Giza, where we excavated a pyramid. My students also created a recycled art commercial at the end of our recycling unit. I videotaped the students pitching their products, and then I put all the commercials together using Windows Movie Maker™.

Submitted by Melissa Caldarola, Indiana

User-Friendly Literacy Software

In middle school, we use computer labs often, but I love the WYNN™ Literacy Software Solution program! It is so helpful for my ESE inclusion students. It reads for the students as they type, which helps them edit. I highly recommend this program to any teacher—elementary, middle, and high school.

Submitted by Jeannene O'Connell, Georgia

Engage Students: E-mail VIPs

My brother-in-law, who works at NASA, sends pictures of shuttle launches and other exciting happenings from "space" to my class. My second-graders love getting mail from a "real astronaut"

(though my brother-in-law works in the communications department). This communication can be the “launching pad” for one of the many programs available on the NASA Web site.

My students also communicate via e-mail with fictional VIPs, such as our class puppet, Mr. Al. E. Gator. I send e-mails from my personal e-mail to my school account to read to the students. They get excited and take turns answering the class e-mail. Sometimes I have them write in their journals to Al, telling them that I am looking for sentences that start with capital letters and end with proper punctuation because Mr. Al. E. Gator needs to be able to read their writing. Then I choose the most creative and well-written work as a response. It’s a great way to integrate writing and basic computer skills into the curriculum.

Submitted by Kathie V. Transki, Florida

Computers for Preschoolers

My preschoolers have learned to love the computer. It is never too soon to expose them to technology. I set up educational Web sites that students can find by clicking a picture related to the site’s theme and its corresponding word. Using the mouse develops the students’ fine motor skills, and the keyboard is good practice for letter recognition.

Submitted by Tana Tomashefski

Classroom Technology

How do you differentiate instruction or engage parents in the classroom? Share your tips and ideas with your KDP colleagues! Send them to NewsEditor@kdp.org.