

Camanche High Library Newsletter

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April 2014

Nepris: Connecting the Classroom with Industry Professionals

What is Nepris?

A FREE videoconferencing site/ service that connects industry experts with teachers; goal is to engage and inspire students in fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM)

How does Nepris work?

1. Teachers create FREE accounts.
2. Teachers create requests based on curricular activities/ topics. Must be done 4-6 weeks ahead of time.
3. Nepris service finds industry experts to connect with.
4. Experts and teachers communicate regarding goals, activity, discussion, etc.
5. Experts virtually connect with classrooms.

Necessary Equipment

- projector AND screen or SMART board
- Internet access
- Microphone
- Speakers
- Webcam (optional)

There's still time to submit a request for this school year! Check it out at www.nepris.com.

The XP Apocalypse

Do you own one of the estimated 30% of the world's computers that still run XP? Though it's almost fifteen years old, XP is/was a great operating system, but it may be time to move on.

On April 8, Microsoft ends support for XP. Computers running XP will still function, but Microsoft will no longer deploy monthly updates for this operating system. This leaves XP users more vulnerable to viruses and malware.

So what does this mean? Basically, you have four options, each of which requires time or effort.

1. Upgrade to a newer version of Windows. Windows Vista, 7, and 8 are all still supported. Depending on your system's processor, memory, graphics card, etc., your options may be limited.

2. Buy a new machine. These are guaranteed to have the newest operating systems and will likely be supported for another decade.

3. Switch to an entirely different operating system like Ubuntu. This is a legit option but will be a significant change from what you're used to.

4. Keep your XP machine but reinforce safeguards. Set up a home firewall. Use a default browser OTHER THAN Internet Explorer. Keep your anti-virus up-to-date.

Source:

Misener, Dan. "End of Windows XP tech support: How it will affect you." CBC News. CBC, 25 Mar. 2014. Web. 28 Mar. 2014.

Teaching Literacy within Content Areas

Literacy is the responsibility of every teacher. In teaching literacy, our ultimate goal is to enhance student comprehension, writing, and communication skills. Here are some easy suggestions to use in your classroom.

Speaking: Practice academic conversation with think-pair-share. Kids need to be interacting, not sitting passively.

Writing: Add fun, informal writings like quick writes, one-minute essays, and graffiti walls.

Reading: Walk students through the organization of text prior to reading and/or use graphic organizers.

Source:

Alber, Rebecca. "How Important is Teaching Literacy in All Content Areas?" Edutopia. George Lucas Educational Foundation, 10 Aug 2010. Web. 28 Mar. 2014.

Legislative Update

SIGNED:

SF2056/HSB558- Extend school merger/ consolidation initiative
SF2268- Expand statewide preschool program
HF2389- Allow teaching license revocation for sexual liaison with student
SF366- Require schools to report radon testing/ mitigation plans

PENDING:

SF2077/2079- Increase k-12 state aid by 6% in fiscal 2016
HF2409/SF2318- Strengthen anti-bullying/ harassment efforts in schools

DEAD:

Eliminate Common Core in Iowa
Change k-12 forward funding law
Add fine arts to core curriculum

Legislative info from openstates.org.

Questions or comments are always welcome! Speak to Sarah DeMaranville in the library.

The mission of the Camanche Community School District, in partnership with family and community, is to empower students to develop the knowledge and skills to become lifelong learners and successful, productive citizens in a diverse, technological, ever-changing global society.

The library program is guided by this mission:

"In support of the Camanche Community School District's commitment to educational excellence, the Camanche school libraries empower students and staff to become effective users of information, promote collaboration, foster a lifelong love of reading and learning, and help patrons achieve their goals."

And by these goals:

- Provide a welcome and safe environment for learning.
- Promote cultural and technological diversity in thinking and in resources in an effort to promote a more global perspective in learners.
- Work to develop information literacy, lifelong learning, and critical thinking skills in all patrons.
- Collaborate with teachers, administrators, support staff, parents, and students to provide the most valuable learning experiences possible.