

Welcome Back

The extended spring break that turned into summer break is now just a distant memory and here we are, finally, back in the driver's seat with our students buckled in and ready for the exciting ride of 2020-2021! Of course, let us not forget all that was accomplished: learning how to operate a Zoom meeting, setting up and decorating a bitmoji classroom with the same devotion as you do your physical classroom, and successfully creating virtual meet-the-teacher videos to give parents and students the same excitement of a new school year with their new teacher. Everyone in every building has done a fantastic job taking on this "new normal" of a school year while continually focusing on teaching and learning. Although we will all be met with new challenges as the school year is getting started, Dr. Seuss said it best, "It's not about what it is, it's about what it can become." Let's continue working together to make this school year full of unforgettable learning and memories!

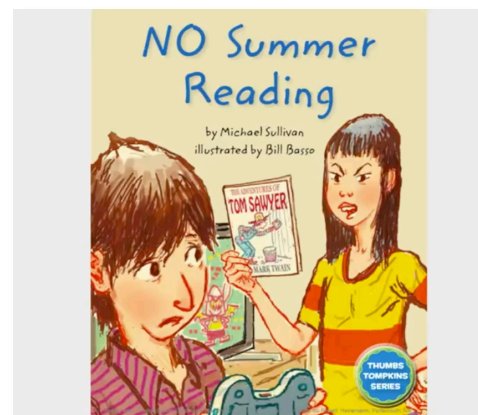
Going Digital in ELA

Fountas and Pinnell have worked diligently to provide teachers with online access to their resources. Teachers have access to Leveled Literacy Intervention books in the orange, green, blue, and red kits. Teachers have access to PreK-3 Shared Reading and K-3 Guided Reading Books by using:

USERNAME rcsd.temp.access@heinemann.com

PASSWORD: welcome.rcsd

Fountas and Pinnell have also granted temporary permission to record lessons in a closed digital environment



using any of their resources. If you record a lesson, please remove and delete your recordings by December 31, 2020.

Going Digital in Math

Great Minds has developed an online platform, called Insync, that offers a seamless transition from in class instruction to distance learning of Eureka Math. The program can be used for Kindergarten through fifth grade and is accessible through Clever. It consists of components that offer video lessons, digital classwork, family guidance in English and Spanish, and printable packets for offline access. Additional training will be provided in Professional Development Zoom meetings.



Going Digital in Science

Digital tools and digital learning can be a means to promote a deeper understanding of science content for our students. Exposing students to digital tools without instruction is not necessarily going to positively impact student learning. However, if you sequence your lessons in a way that includes digital tools that engage students, as well as gives students an opportunity to explore and collaborate with these tools, you will create a class environment that promotes a deeper learning of science content.

One of the digital tools available for 3-5 science teachers is Fossweb. Fossweb has many videos, tutorials, and simulations that supplement each science lesson. Also, the FOSS virtual labs give students an opportunity to investigate and interact with the science phenomena, giving them the opportunity to use inquiry skills as they learn. Don't forget about the FOSS student ebook. Linking the FOSS ebook reading assignments to Google Classroom is an efficient way to encourage students to read texts about the concepts discussed during the science investigations in class.

Gizmos (Interactive science simulations and labs) is another digital resource available. This resource can be used to encourage inquiry based learning in science. Using Gizmos, students can explore, test, interpret data, and draw conclusions about scientific



Gizmos are interactive math and science simulations for grades 3-12. Over 400 Gizmos aligned to the latest standards help educators bring powerful new learning experiences to the classroom.



FOSS developers, working with a multimedia design team, have developed a series of interactive activities for use by K-8 students at home and at school. These include online extension activities, virtual investigations, and student tutorials, which support students who have difficulties or who have been absent.



questions. For instance, students can investigate the forest food web and identify the feeding relationships within the food web. Then, they can figure out how the ecosystem would change if they altered the organisms within the food web. This is a great tool for students to explore how populations can be affected within ecosystems.

Explore these digital resources and use them in your classroom to provide students with opportunities to encourage science inquiry.

Collaborating with Jamboard

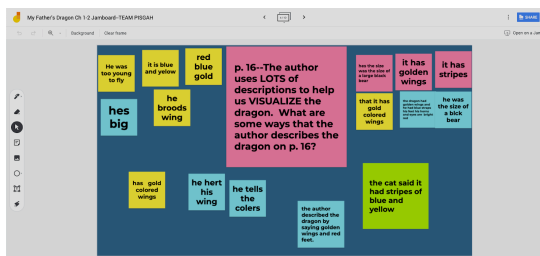
How can our students continue to work collaboratively but remain socially distanced? One answer for that is Google's Jamboard. Jamboard is one of the lesser known apps in the GSuite, but lately it is making quite the impact in our classrooms. Jamboard offers students and teachers a collaborative thinkspace. It is completely free and works on any device (computer, Chromebook, Android, or iOS device). Jamboard is a collaborative online whiteboard and is a perfect fit for our students in a variety of ways. They can be used for graphic organizers, shared charts, interactive centers, research posters, presentations, teaching notes, storytelling, writing, math whiteboards, entrance/exit tickets, diagrams, story maps, and so much more.

You can access Jamboard by clicking the waffle in Chrome and finding the Jamboard icon or by simply going to jamboard.google.com. If you are on an Android or iOS device, you can install the Jamboard app.

While Jamboards are meant to be collaborative with multiple students working on them at once, they can also be individualized, too. You can post your Jamboards in your Google Classrooms as assignments. From here, you can select for all students to be able to edit the Jamboard or for each student to have a copy. This is a great option for digital centers, whole class anchor charts, and collaborative note taking.

Julie Hammer, Pisgah Elementary Teacher, utilized Jamboard with her third grade students recently during a shared reading lesson. Having some virtual and some in person students, she expressed that Jamboard was the perfect tool to still allow students to work together at the same time.

"We used Jamboard today with the novel we are reading as a class. It was so awesome to be able to include the kids on Zoom at home and the ones in-person and have them be able to share with each other, but not all be touching the same paper chart and real sticky notes. It was so cool to do it digitally! The kids loved it, and one of my choice students' parents commented to me how much her child enjoyed it and felt such a part of the discussion despite being at home."



If you would like to learn more about Jamboard, join us on October 7, 2020.