



October 2016

Issue #9

Office of Instructional Technology  
Mr. George Loper, CAO  
<http://www.desotocounty schools.org/ITDept>  
662.429.5271

Classrooms don't need tech geeks who can teach; we need teaching geeks who can use tech.

@DavidGeurin



Students in Mrs. Lowrie's library at DCES enjoy reading on ALL the devices with Fallett and MyOn.



### October is National Bullying Prevention Month and Halloween Safety Month:

Check out the following resources for your classroom:

**Netsmartz**

<http://www.netsmartz.org>

**Billy Buddy's Safety Games**

<http://billybuddy.ca/app/en/games>

**I Am A Witness**

<http://iwitnessbullying.org/>

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### Focus Training Sessions in October at Your School:

iPads  
in the  
Classroom



Look for emails from your Classroom Tech Coach for information about how to attend these trainings!



Mrs. Owensby's students at HLIS watch a study jams video about body systems.



**Cassie Sanders, CTC**  
CTCW, DCAC/Magnolia,  
Olive Branch & Horn  
Lake Zones

## Cassie's App of the Month: Scratch Jr.



By snapping together graphical programming blocks, children can make characters move, jump, dance, and sing. In the process, children learn to solve problems, design projects, and express themselves creatively on the computer. They also use math and language in a meaningful and motivating context, supporting the development of early-childhood numeracy and literacy. With Scratch Jr, children don't just learn to code, they code to learn.

Follow Cassie on Twitter: [@cassie\\_e](https://twitter.com/cassie_e)

**FAQ:** Why can't I access Youtube on my computer?

**ANSWER:** If you have problems viewing youtube videos on your school computer, the first thing to do is to restart your computer and log in. This typically solves the issue, but if it doesn't and you get the red "Content Keeper" screen, you can click the blue [Log In](#) and use your username and password from your computer login to access youtube.



## Cassie's Technology Tip of the Month:

### Microsoft Office on Your Devices

Did you know that if you have an office365 account you have 5 Microsoft Licenses to use on personal devices? That means that your personal laptop, Macbook, your kid's Macbook, Laptop, anybody you give access can have one of your licenses.

Follow the link below for instructions on doing this:

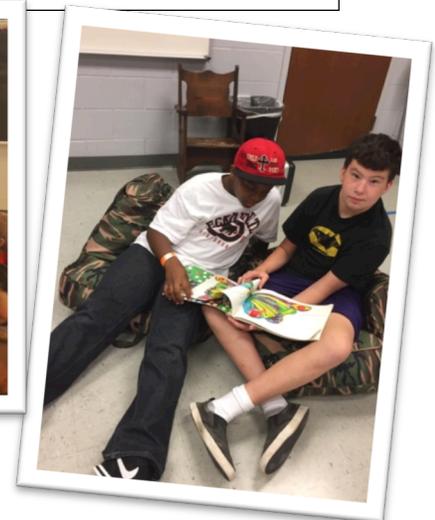
<http://tinyurl.com/jf8bbcvc>



A student in Mrs. Shoffner's class at CHMS assists another in Mrs. Moore's classroom with tech and reading.



Mrs. Ponders' students at HES have fun using Kahoot! to apply what they've learned.



More collaboration in Moore and Shoffner's classes at CHMS in art and reading.



# Tyler's App of the Month: Twitterrific 5

Twitterrific 5 for Twitter by The Iconfactory  
[https://appsto.re/us/\\_GTLI.i](https://appsto.re/us/_GTLI.i)

Twitter is an amazing resource and has a lot of untapped potential for educators. It can be a Professional Learning Community. It can be a way to update people about what is going on in your classroom. It can be a way to connect with parents, students and friends. It can be #teamDCS. The only problem (for me at least) is that the more people you follow, the more confusing your timeline can become. Twitterrific is a free\* alternative to Twitter's iOS app that offers "muffles" to tune out some of the tweets you don't want and it offers a more robust search feature. You can go looking for classroom ideas, concepts to use while lesson planning or other teachers in other parts of the world who teach what you teach.

\*Twitterrific is ad supported, but for \$4.99 you can get rid of ads and you also get push notifications.



**Tyler Cummings, CTC**  
CTCE, Center Hill &  
Southaven Zones

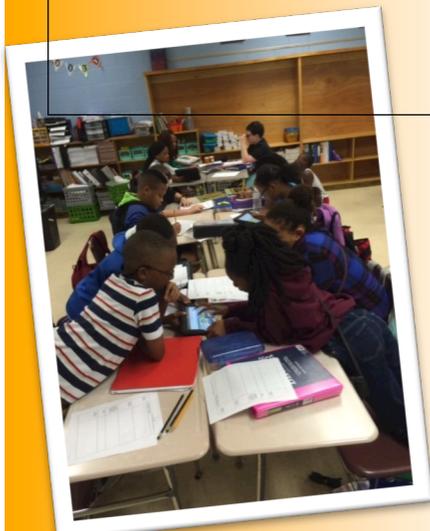
**Follow Tyler on  
Twitter:  
[@tylercummings](https://twitter.com/tylercummings)**

**FAQ:** Why is YouTube blocked all of a sudden? It was working yesterday.

**ANSWER:** I know we've answered this question in this space before, but it bears repeating again. You're not blocked from YouTube, you probably just forgot to turn your computer off when you went home the other day. ContentKeeper will log you out automatically after a period of time, so you will need to log back in. You can do that by rebooting your computer or by clicking on the blue "login" in the middle of the red screen and using your username/password for the computer to log into ContentKeeper again.

## Tyler's Technology Tip of the Month:

It's new phone season. Many of you will get new iPhones or some other new phone soon. Before your new phone comes, back up your older phone to iCloud or to iTunes. When you plug your phone into your computer it should ask you if you want to encrypt your backup. You do. When your shiny new phone comes, plug it back up to your computer or connect it to iCloud and you'll re-sync your text messages, health data, reminders, calendars, everything from that last backup point. You are already backing up your desktop/laptops with OneDrive right?



Students in Mrs. Owensby's class at HLIS use their iPads for research.



A student in Mrs. Germany's classroom at HHES creates a prezzi to review his Making Meaning vocabulary words.



Students in Mrs. Barnes's class at LES on their way to earning their Digital Learning Passport!



# Shelby's App of the Month: Kaizena



Providing meaningful feedback to students is essential in the learning process. Why not utilize technology? Kaizena works alongside Google Docs, allowing students to import a Google Doc they've created into the platform. Teachers can open the document and provide voice and/or text comments concerning the imported work.

According to the iTunes description of the app, Kaizena can...

- Save time and provide more personal feedback by using your voice instead of text.
- Share feedback privately with students one-on-one.
- Access and review feedback anytime, anywhere on your iPhone, iPad or iPod.
- Allow students to share their work with you anytime for feedback.
- Enable students to give feedback to each other.

Check out this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9qyRkzSiuU>

<https://kaizena.com>

**Shelby Elmore,  
CTC**

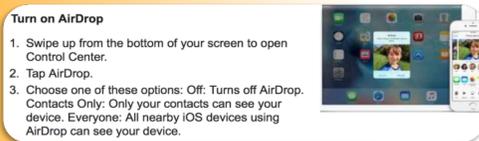
Hernando & Lake  
Cormorant Zones

**Follow Shelby on Twitter: @ctselmore**

**FAQ:** How do I get my students' work off of an iPad?

**ANSWER:** I get this question many times and there are many ways for students to send their created videos, documents and files to teachers. Here are a two of my favorite ways...

1. AirDrop: If you and the student are both using a capable Apple Device (Macbook, iPad or iPhone) then you can use Airdrop to wirelessly transfer the file from one device to another. (\*older ipads will not be AirDrop Compatible)



Once AirDrop is enabled on your device, choose the file you want to send and click on the  a box will appear with all of the airdrop enabled devices listed. Just tap on the device that you want to send the file to and voila, they will receive the file, it's that easy!

2. An alternate way of getting the files is to use Cloud Storage. Create a Google Drive Account: (Example: [mrselmoresclass@gmail.com](mailto:mrselmoresclass@gmail.com)). Create a file folder with each student's name. Have students log into the Drive account, find their folder and upload the file into their folder. Keep in mind that folders cannot be kept private from one another using this method, so everyone could see each other's work. This would be perfect for group projects where groups all had different topics. This could be done with a Dropbox or any other account, but do not give students the password to your DCS OneDrive account.

## Shelby's Technology Tip of the Month:



<http://www.smartappsforkids.com>

Did you know that App Developers sometimes give their apps away for free for a limited time? With so many developers, it's very difficult to keep up with which one that is offering theirs for free! Smart Apps for Kids is a great service that sends me weekly notifications for all the great free educational apps. Many are offered for a limited time at no charge, so I look forward to my Bargain App Fridays!! Among the tons of free apps I've downloaded was a \$49 App for Free (Hooked on Phonics). So either sign up for weekly notifications like I did, or stop by their website and visit frequently, you'll be glad that you did!



**A student in Mrs. Pattberg's computer lab at HLHS is being creative with Adobe inDesign.**



**Jennifer Klinger, CTC**  
DeSoto Central & Lewisburg Zones

## Jennifer's App of the Month: Bedtime Math



Parents know to read to their kids at night, but what about math? Our mission is simple: to make math a fun part of kids' everyday lives, as beloved as the bedtime story. Choose the Math Problem of the Day, or explore over 1600 additional math problems with various zany topics, ranging from electric eels and chocolate chips to roller coasters and flamingos. Each has three levels of challenge ("Wee Ones," "Little Kids," and "Big Kids"), and many also have harder questions ("The Sky's the Limit") for really big kids, grown-ups, and anyone who's feeling brave!

**Follow Jennifer on Twitter: @dcsetc**

**FAQ:** Why does my iPad browser say "can't establish a secure connection" or the website gets blocked by the red ContentKeeper screen?

**ANSWER:** Your iPads are using the same internet filter as your desktop computer. To get past this, follow the same steps as you would on your desktop:

- If you see the **red ContentKeeper** screen, simply click **Login**, and proceed to steps 2 & 3 below.
- If you get the error that says, "**can't establish a secure connection**", follow all three steps below.
  1. Type in this address to get to the Content Keeper site: <http://tinyurl.com/dcslogin>
    - a. or, you can delete the letter **S** in the **https://** of the website's address.
  2. Enter your username as you would your desktop computer=firstname.lastname
  3. Enter your password that you use to login to your desktop computer.

If you entered the correct credentials, you will now see a new screen that says, "You are now logged in and can continue browsing the internet. Please leave this page up and open a new window or tab to continue browsing."

\*\*Don't close that tab. Open a new tab and navigate to the original website you were trying.

### Jennifer's Technology Tip of the Month:

#### How to shorten and customize a LONG website address:

Want to simplify website addresses to make it easier for your students and parents to reach and remember? There are several sites that can create shortened url's for you in seconds! I used [tinyurl.com](http://tinyurl.com) in the above FAQ section to not only shorten the long website address, but also make it easier for you to remember.

Try it now with your teacher website!  
Instead of this...

<http://www.desotocountyschools.org/?PN=Pages&SubP=Level1Page&L=1&DivisionID=10922&DepartmentID=11058&PageID=21261>

#### My 3 favorite websites to shorten URLs are:

It could be this <http://tinyurl.com/DCS-ITDEPT>  
<http://tinyurl.com/>

*I like this website, because you can customize the address after the .com/*

<https://bitly.com/>

<https://goo.gl/> Google's version, which allows you to track how many hits or clicks your shortened url has.

# #TeamDCS



**Tina Streeter**  
Webmaster/Learn360  
Coordinator

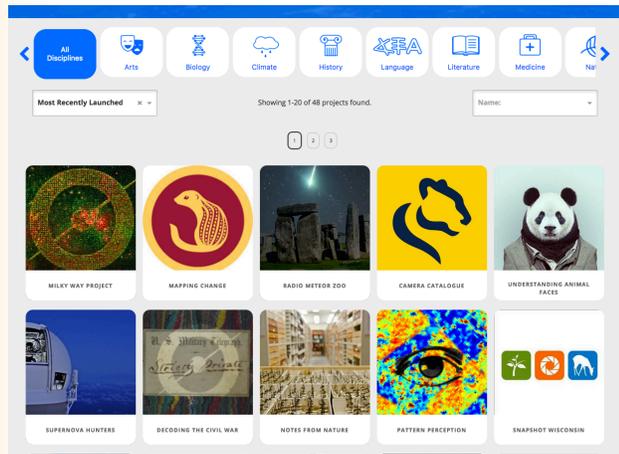
Follow Tina on  
Twitter:  
**@TinaStreeter2**

## Tina's Website of the Month: The Zooniverse

<http://www.zooniverse.com>



The Zooniverse is real, people-powered research that allows you and your students to take part in cutting edge research in the humanities, sciences, and more. Your students take part in real scientific discoveries by helping contribute data to the scientists that are flooded with data every minute and every second of the day. Clicking the "Projects" button on the Zooniverse website, shows you a plethora of disciplines and topics to explore!



## Computer 101 with Mr. Hicks:



**How often should I reboot my computer?** The answer to this question varies depending on your circumstances. In a school environment, we all try to do what we can to save money. Leaving your PC running overnight and on weekends uses electricity. By turning your computer off, your school can save money. If everyone shuts down, it can really add up.

Your computer technicians sometimes deploy new

software or updates. Your computer won't get these unless you shutdown or reboot.

Also, our Internet content filter will require you to log back in, or else some websites may be blocked until you re-enter your username and password.

Macbooks running off a battery can run for days in "sleep" mode. But they still need to be rebooted for various reasons. If your Mac leaves campus, you'll need to reboot in order to reconnect to your school server and home folders.

### I have too many things on my desktop. How can I clean it up?

We all have a tendency to save things on our desktop, but that can sometimes make things hard to find. I like to suggest creating **folders**. You can then group files that are similar in subject matter or file type. By giving your folders logical names, it can make it much easier to search through hundreds of items quickly.



**Pete Hicks**  
Asst. Director

# Upcoming CEU Sessions:

Please go to **Munis Self-Serve** to register for the following classes.

## Tyler Cummings

"Understanding Apple's Productivity Applications"

Where: Southaven High School

When: October 3rd & 17th, 2016

4:30 until 7:40 p.m.

Target Audience: Any teacher with a MacBook or teachers with a desire to learn more about Apple's applications in education.

## Tina Streeter

"Teach the World: Learn360 Video Streaming"

Where: Hernando High

When: October 18th and 25th, 2016

4:30 until 7:00 p.m.

Target Audience: Pre-K-12 Teachers

## Charlotte Wilson

"Renaissance"

When: October 18th and 20th, 2016

4:30 until 7:00 p.m. @ Southaven Elementary  
and

November 7th & 8th @ Pleasant Hill Elementary

Target Audience: Administrators, Teachers, Special Services

## Cassie Sanders and Jennifer Klinger

"Free Ride: Google Drive for the Classroom" (Part 1 of 2)

Where: DeSoto Central Elementary

When: October 20th & 27th, 2016

4:30 until 7:00 p.m.

Target Audience: Certified Teachers

## Pete Hicks

"Computer Basics"

Where: District Office Computer Lab

When: October 20th & 27th, 2016

4:30 until 7:00 p.m.

Target Audience: All Certified Staff/Teachers

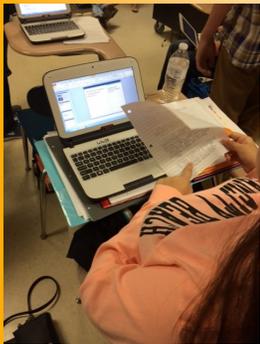
## Shelby Elmore

"SmartBoard Basics: Entry Level Course"

Where: ONLINE

When: October 3rd - November 18th, 2016

Target Audience: K-12 Teachers who have a SmartBoard in their classroom and Smart Notebook installed on their computer.



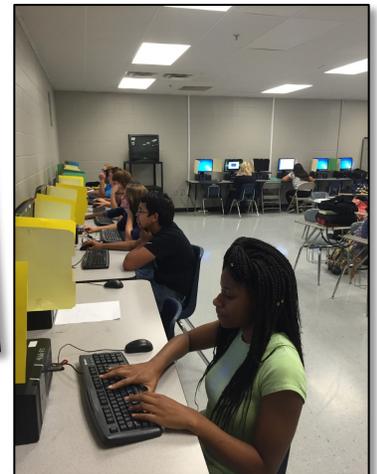
Who says research can't be fun on the Netbooks? In Mrs. Rowe's English class at HHS it is!



Tons of learning go on in Mrs. Sommerfield's 2nd grade at Hope Sullivan!



8th Grade Science papers in the making at LCMS!



Talk about "tech skills"...these students have got it down at HLHS! Check out the broadcasting team at

<http://www.hornlaketv.com/>



IXL & iPads in Mrs. Strong's class at HHS is so much fun!