



March 2017

Issue #14

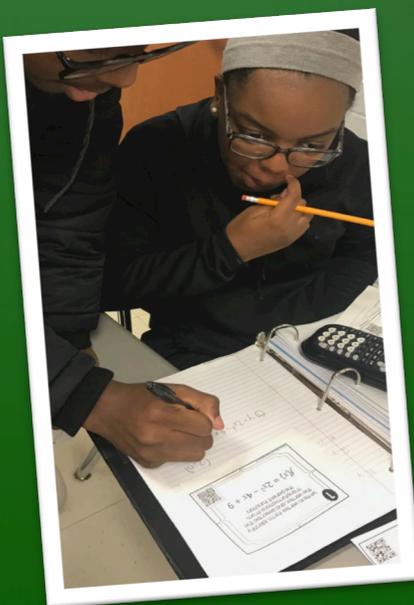
Office of Instructional Technology
Mr. George Loper, CAO
<http://www.desoto-countyschools.org/ITDept>
662.429.5271

**Awesome March Resources:
Just click on the titles to access!**

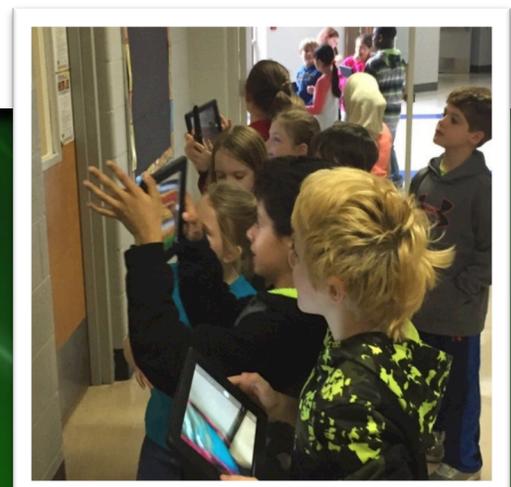
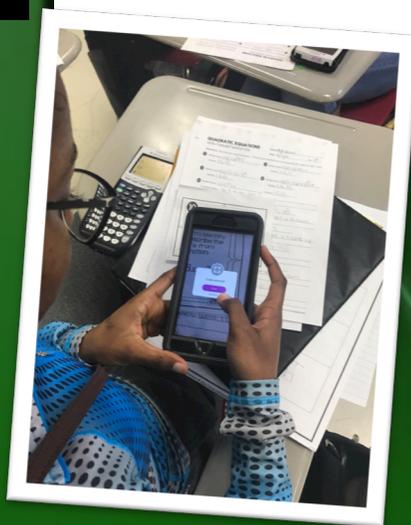
CONTENTS:

- ◆ Apps of the Month
- ◆ Frequently Asked Questions
- ◆ Tech Tips of the Month
- ◆ Computer 101
- ◆ Website of the Month
- ◆ Teacher Website Tip of the Month

- ✿ [Learn360 Playlist: St. Patrick's Day](#)
- ✿ [ReadTheory for Grammar and Writing](#)
- ✿ [SmartExchange St. Patrick's Day Lessons](#)
- ✿ [Free Microsoft Tutorials \(including Office 365\)](#)
- ✿ [Women's History Month Lesson Plans from Education World](#)
- ✿ [TeacherVision Spring Printables, Activities & Lessons for Science](#)
- ✿ [How Stuff Works](#)



Mrs. Burse's Algebra 2 class at OBHS investigate quadratic equations using task cards and check answers using QR readers!



Mrs. Parb's class on the hunt for Functional Texts throughout the school at SIS!



Cassie Sanders, CTC

CTCW,
DCAC/Magnolia,
Olive Branch & Horn
Lake Zones

Cassie's App of the Month: Adobe Voice



Adobe Voice helps you create stunning animated videos in minutes. No filming – just talk to tell your story. Pick from over 25,000 beautiful iconic images to show your ideas and Voice automatically adds cinematic motion and a soundtrack. Persuade, inform and inspire anyone online. Make an impact.

Follow Cassie on Twitter: [@dcsteacher5](https://twitter.com/dcsteacher5)

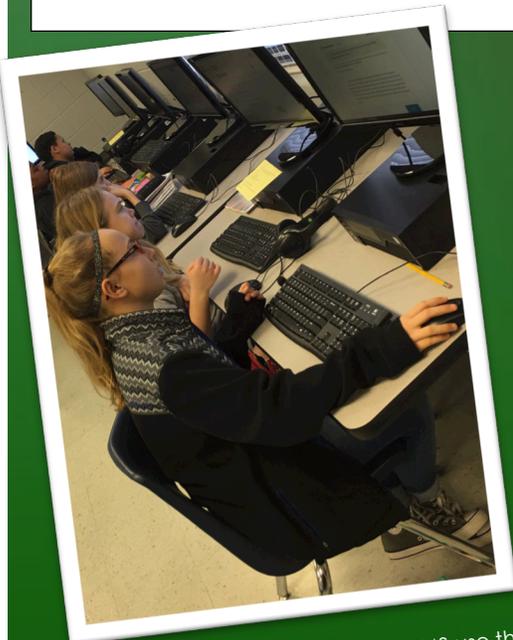
FAQ: I found an app that I really think my students would benefit from, how can I have it put on the iPads?

ANSWER: If you have an app that you would like to use with your students, just push the red help button or let your technology coach know and we can have it pushed to the iPads for you. If you would like to purchase an App for the iPads, we can let you know you the steps for doing this also.

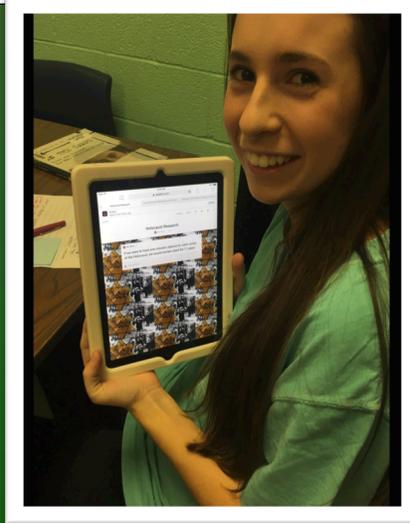
Cassie's Technology Tip of the Month:

GOOGLE FORMS

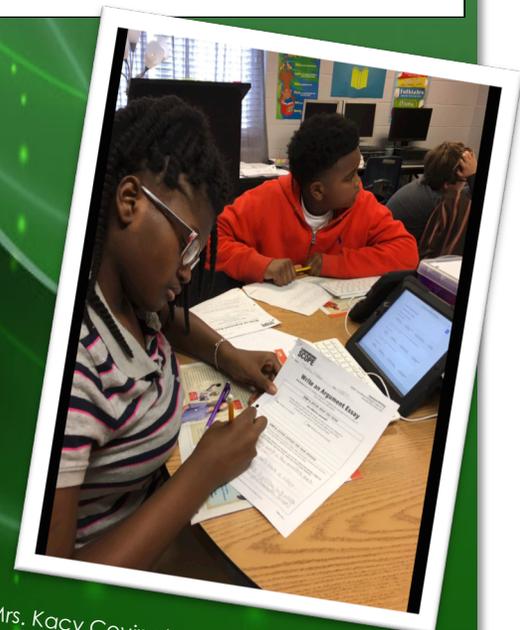
Looking for an easier way to quickly assess your students, or collect data? Try Google Forms. This is an awesome way to have students take a test, survey, or for you to enter in student contact data. The results are live and time stamped and recorded in an Excel spreadsheet, that you can access anywhere that has an internet connection. It will even grade your tests for you!



Mrs. Loren Nelson's 6th graders at CHMS use the Read Theory website to grow as readers and writers!



A student in Mrs. Jessica Percy's ELA class at HMS shows off her use of Padlet.



Mrs. Kacy Covington's students use the iPads to research for their argumentative essays at CHMS.



Shelby Elmore,
CTC

Hernando, Southaven,
& Lake Cormorant
Zones

Shelby's App of the Month: Quizizz Student



Review your Class Like a RockStar! If you like Kahoot, then you'll love Quizizz! This long-awaited app release just hit the App Store 1-17-17 so it's brand new. Your class will love reviewing for tests using this app. Teachers go online to quizizz.com and create an account or sign in with Google. Sessions can be shared through Google Classroom. You can then search through tons of question sets and preview them before assigning a Live or Homework session. Teachers can easily make their own quizzes as well. Students can either use the app or type join.quizizz.com into the browser URL bar of any web-enabled device. Results can be downloaded into a data-rich spreadsheet that will help you plan remediation and enrichment strategies after the session.

Follow Shelby on Twitter: [@ctselmore](https://twitter.com/ctselmore)

FAQ: What other apps and programs can I use with Google Classroom?

Here are a few of my faves!

ANSWER:

[Geogebra](http://www.geogebra.org)

(graphing calculator for functions, geometry, algebra, calculus, statistics and 3D math)

[Duolingo](http://www.duolingo.com)

(language learning platform)

[Nearpod](http://www.nearpod.com)

(interactive lesson tool)

[Newsela](http://www.newsela.com)

(non-fiction, leveled current news articles)

[Quizizz](http://www.quizizz.com)

(my app of the month for March, Quiz tool!)

[Quizlet](http://www.quizlet.com)

(flashcards, games and more!)

[IXL](http://www.ixl.com)

(standards-aligned math and reading support)

Shelby's Technology Tip of the Month:

Send files to students using AirDrop for Mac and iOS

So you've got this iPad cart for the day and you want students to use it. How about ditching the printer and sending all of the printables to the iPads for students to complete? Impossible? It's VERY possible with AirDrop.



1. Start AirDrop

On the devices you'd like to transfer files between, open the AirDrop window. On a Mac, click it in a Finder window sidebar, or choose Go > AirDrop, or press Command + Shift + R. If Bluetooth or Wi-Fi is switched off, click the button to turn it on so AirDrop can work.



2. Send a file

On your Mac, locate the file you want to send. Drag its icon onto the icon for the other person's device. "Waiting" will appear under that icon, and a pop-up will appear on the receiving device so the recipient can accept or decline the item.



3. Receive files

A blue arc grows around the edge of the person's icon to indicate progress (click for an estimate of remaining time). Files you receive are saved to your Downloads folder, which is accessible from the Finder sidebar, the Go menu, or by pressing Command + Option + L.



Jennifer Klinger, CTC
CTCE, Center Hill,
DeSoto Central &
Lewisburg Zones

Jennifer's App of the Month: Socratic Homework



Socratic is a homework app that combines cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence (AI) with amazing learning content to make learning on your phone or iPad easy. Take a picture of a homework question and our AI instantly figures out which concepts you need to learn in order to answer it, and shows you simple, high-quality content designed to make learning easy. Socratic's AI combines cutting-edge computer vision technologies, which read questions from images, with machine learning classifiers built using millions of sample homework questions, to accurately predict which concepts will help you solve your question.

Socratic's team of educators is creating highly-visual, jargon-free content to teach every important high school curriculum concept, and is curating the best online videos from sources like Khan Academy, Crash Course, and others.

Follow Jennifer on Twitter: [@dcsote](https://twitter.com/dcsote)

FAQ: My student has forgotten their Google Drive/Classroom password. Can you reset it?

ANSWER: Yes, of course we can. Just shoot your Classroom Technology Coach an email and we can reset it, usually pretty quickly. I am also going to offer a suggestion in the *form* of a Google Form.

Create a Google Form with these four questions:

1. Last Name
2. First Name
3. Google account username
4. Password

You will instantly receive the results in a Google Sheet, so the next time your students forget their password you can look it up in your Google Drive.

You are also welcome to use this link below, which will create a copy of a basic Form I created for this purpose. When you click the link, you will be prompted to *make a copy* of the Form. Feel free to customize the Form for your class. (Instructions on how to prompt your students to make a copy of your Google docs are in my tip of the month section)

<https://docs.google.com/a/desotocountyschools.org/forms/d/1UufO86JAKgi3ppOfDTN4zGBgRS7YeuFRBCnsd42VWRs/copy>

Jennifer's Technology Tip of the Month:

Prompt your students to make a copy of your shared Google Doc, Sheet, Drawing or Slide!

Ever share something and instruct your students to go to file>make a copy, and instead they all start typing on the document like it's their own?

Here's how it works! Grab the link of the doc, sheet, slide or drawing—the one you see when you are editing. (Hint: this link has the word “edit” at the end.) Then simply replace the word EDIT with the word COPY! The user will then be prompted to make a copy of the file. Once they click the “Make a Copy,” button, it will make a copy of the file and add it to their Google Drive. AWESOME!

¹<http://www.shakeuplearning.com/blog/force-users-to-make-a-copy-of-a-google-doc/>



Tina Streeter
District Webmaster
&
Learn360
Coordinator

Tina's Website/App of the Month:

ArtGames 2.0



ArtGames 2.0 brings artworks to life like never before through fun and challenging art games! Run through Vincent van Gogh's Southern France; dodge the bats and other art evil-doers. Eight different art games inspired by eight different artists set on your own home planet that you customize based on your accomplishments. Show off your creative side and share your world with your friends on social media or via email. Check out other people's worlds as you navigate a 3D galaxy.

ArtGames 2.0 is available in the App Store and the Google Play store.

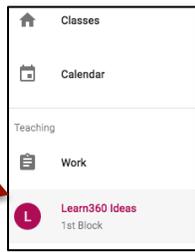
Follow Tina on Twitter: [@TinaStreeter2](https://twitter.com/TinaStreeter2)

FAQ: How can I link my Google Classroom to my teacher website for easy student access?

1. **Log in** to your Google Classroom and **click** the "Classroom Menu" icon in the top left corner.



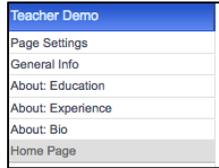
2. **Click the name** of the class you want to link on your teacher website. In this case, my class is entitled "**Learn360 Ideas - 1st Block**".



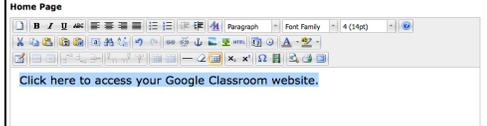
3. In the **URL box** at the top of the internet browser window, **right-click** your Google Classroom hyperlink and **copy** it.



4. **Log in** to your teacher website and click the **home page** or the page you want to add your Google Classroom link.



5. Type the **display text** for your Google Classroom link. For example, you can type, "**Click here to access your Google Classroom website**", and then **highlight** that text.



6. On the toolbar, click the "**Insert Hyperlink**" tool.



7. In the "**Link URL**" dialog box in the "**Insert/Edit Hyperlink**" dialog window, **right-click** and **paste** the Google Classroom hyperlink. Then, click the "Insert" button and the "Update" button!

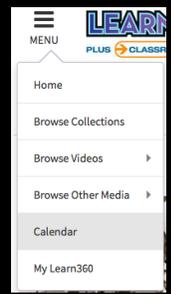


Learn360 Tip:

Are you looking for a current event and/or writing prompt idea for your students? Let your students use the LEARN360 Calendar and choose their own topic!

Steps for students:

- ❖ Go to Learn360 (<http://learn360.infobase.com>) Remember, students don't have to login if you they to the DCS Quick Launch page first!
- ❖ Choose Menu/Calendar



- ❖ To the right beside the month, students can choose "View All" and view all the events for that particular month.



- ❖ For example, students can choose "St. Patrick's Day" and all the Learn360 videos and resources for that holiday will show up!



Computer 101 with Mr. Hicks: Computer Lab Tips for Teachers



Pete Hicks

Asst. Director,
Instructional
Technology

Many teachers feel uncomfortable taking their students to the computer lab because they are out of their element. This month's technology tips consist of some common sense computer lab management techniques that can make class time in the computer lab more productive.

Have students turn off their monitors while you give directions. Talking to students in the lab is sometimes like talking to a teenager while they're watching TV. The computer screen can be just as distracting for your students, so have them turn off their monitors so they can hear your directions.

Test everything before you have the students in front of you. Preparation in the computer age means testing everything first.... *BEFORE* trying something with the students. Make sure the projector works, try to pull up all websites beforehand, and make sure all needed programs are installed before you begin your lesson.

If your lab has management software, learn to use it. Lab management software can make it possible for you to monitor all the computers from one place, usually the teacher's desktop. You can do a demonstration on everyone's screen at once, or take over computers to help students individually. Not all of our computer labs are equipped with management software, so check with your Classroom Technology Coach first.



Stay Mobile. Walking around the lab is the best way to keep students on task. Depending on the lab layout, you may not be able to see all of their computers from the front. You'll be able to help students individually as well as monitor their classmates as you make your way around the lab.

Don't forget to check the Windows "Taskbar" as you walk around the computer lab. Students can easily wander off task when using a computer and many of them are experts at hiding what they're doing. They'll quickly minimize the windows they don't want you to see. Just remember to check the Taskbar at the bottom of their screen. When online, also check for additional browser tabs that may be open.



Following these tips will help you increase your students' productivity when you're in the computer lab. If you'd like some individual training on how you can more effectively use your school's computer lab, contact your Instructional Technology Coach for lots of useful tips and guidance.