



Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2016

ISSUE #10

Office of Instructional Technology  
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**So much to celebrate in November! Here are a few resources to get you started..**

As we express our gratitude,  
we must never forget that the  
highest appreciation is not to  
utter words, but to live by them.

- John Fitzgerald Kennedy.



### CONTENTS:

- ◆ Apps of the Month
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- ◆ Tech Tips of the Month
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- ◆ Website of the Month
- ◆ Web Tip of the Month
- ◆ Upcoming CEU's

**Learn360 Video: Holiday Facts & Fun! (One of our most popular videos)**

<http://learn360.infobase.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?wID=109375&xtid=74723>

**Veteran's Day Facts**

<http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/veterans-day-facts>

**Election Central by PBS**

<http://pbseduelectioncentral.com/>

**Ted-Ed Lesson: When is Thanksgiving?**

<https://ed.ted.com/featured/10rzfP6g>

**Turkey at Zero Gravity: What It's Like to Spend Thanksgiving in Space**

<http://www.greatbigstory.com/stories/eland-melvin-thanksgiving-in-space>

**The "First Thanksgiving" Lesson Plan**

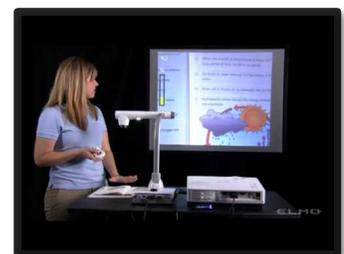
<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/activity/first-thanksgiving>



Hassie Johnson at GES uses the Picklers app on her ipad to do formative assessments.

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

The Magic of Document Cameras



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



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

## Cassie's App of the Month: Google Expeditions



**Google Expeditions** is a virtual reality teaching tool that lets you lead or join immersive virtual trips all over the world — get up close with historical landmarks, dive underwater with sharks, even visit outer space! Built for the classroom and small group use, Google Expeditions allows a teacher acting as a “guide” to lead classroom-sized groups of “explorers” through collections of 360° and 3D images while pointing out interesting sights along the way.

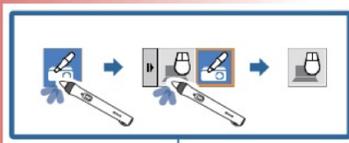
### Features:

- Guide classroom-sized groups of locally connected users from your phone or tablet.
- Explore along with a guide in immersive VR by putting your phone into a Google Cardboard viewer (<http://g.co/cardboard>) or use a tablet or phone in 2D “magic window” mode.
- Connect devices over the same WiFi network - if the Guide has downloaded some Expeditions, there is no internet connectivity required to run the Expedition!
- Choose from a growing list of over 200 Expeditions - each one is a curated set of VR imagery along with integrated descriptions, talking points and questions.

**Follow Cassie on Twitter: @cassie\_e**

**FAQ:** Why will my interactive projector not interact?

**ANSWER:** First, make sure your USB cable is plugged in all the way to your computer and that you have the Epson tools installed onto your computer. If the USB cable is plugged in and the tools are installed on your computer you will need to touch one of the Epson interactive pens to your board, and ensure the mouse is highlighted rather than the pen. If you have checked each of the above, and you are still unable to interact with your computer using the pens, please complete a help ticket so your coach can come see if there is another problem.



## Cassie's Technology Tip of the Month:

### Interactive Lessons for Promethean Boards

If you are looking for interactive activities to use with your class, check out Promethean Planet. This is created by teachers, for teachers, [www.PrometheanPlanet.com](http://www.PrometheanPlanet.com) is a unique teaching, sharing and support community – the place for educators to connect, create and change the classroom! Available in 15 language versions, with almost 2 million members in more than 150 countries, Promethean Planet is the international meeting place for educators in the 21st century classroom. Planet's free membership enables access to more than 90,000 downloadable resources, as well as online training, the ability to interact via forums and blogs, and a wide range of other resources. It is integrating with [www.classflow.com](http://www.classflow.com), so you will see this when you go to the Promethean Planet website. They are one in the same, and if you have a log in for Promethean Planet it will work the same with Classflow.

*Congratulations, DCS!*

**An "A"  
District!**

**#1Team  
#1Goal  
#1Vision**

**#TEAMDCS**

# Tyler's App of the Month: Google Photos



If you're among the millions of smart phone users that run out of room on your phone, you need Google Photos. You've probably had to weigh the choice, "do I delete these pictures of the zoo or do I not bother downloading this app?" You don't need to make that choice. All your pictures can be backed up for free. FOR FREE. Google Photos backs up your entire photo library, videos too, and it does it in the background. Once it is set up, when you take a picture, it will be backed up on Google Photos and you will never lose any pictures. Google Photos also creates slideshows for you and uses Google's search algorithms to help you find pictures of 'people wearing glasses on the beach' and that's what you'll see. Google Photos is an awesome app.



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

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

**FAQ:** How do I send calendar invites in Office365?

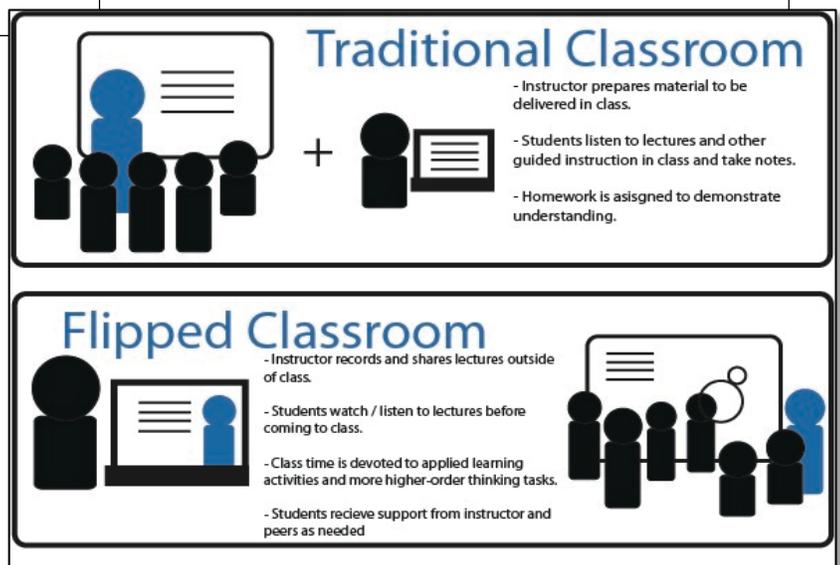
**ANSWER:** First, go to your calendar on Office365 and create an event. You can add details about the event in the bottom box that looks like an email composition window. Once you have your event worked out with the proper dates, times, locations, on the right side of the window will be a box that says "Add people". In that box you can add all the people you want to invite to your event. When they get the email, they will be able to see your event and they can choose to accept it or suggest a different time/place. When they accept the event it will automatically be added to their calendar too.

## Tyler's Technology Tip of the Month:

Do you get so many emails that you miss ones from important people? Your spouse? Your principal? I have had days when I get close to 100 emails. Some of them are junk (tell your computer or phone that they are junk and they will start going to your spam folder instead) and some are important. It is usually the same people that send me important emails, so I have them set up as VIPs in Apple's Mail app. VIPs can be added in iOS by tapping their name to bring up a contact card, scroll to the bottom of that card and tap Add to VIP. On MacOS, when you get an email from someone hold your cursor over their name in the email's from field and you will see a triangle pointing down at the end of their name - click the triangle and click add to VIP. The VIP's emails will have stars next to their names and can be filtered to a special inbox.

For more information on the Flipped Classroom, check out the links below:

- [8 Great Free Flipped Classroom Resources](#)
- [The Teacher's Guide to Flipped Classrooms](#)
- [Flipped Learning Resources](#)
- [21 Things 4 Teachers - Blended or Flipped Classrooms](#)





**Shelby Elmore,  
CTC**

Hernando & Lake  
Cormorant Zones

## Shelby's App of the Month:

### Google Cardboard

**\*\*must have the cardboard viewer**



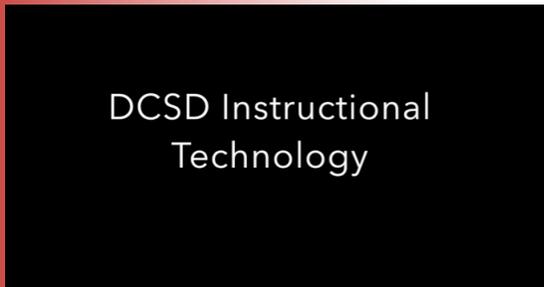
Open up a world of Virtual Reality with Google Cardboard. Students can step onto a street in Paris, through a hallway on a Space Station, or float on a gondola in Venice. The best thing about this app is that they never have to leave their desk! Using a specially designed viewer (prices start at around 10 bucks each), students open the app on their device and place their device into the viewer. The results are intriguing and the VR app market is growing. Discovery VR gives viewers a new perspective to participate in their educational shows and there are several Youtube channels dedicated to this great technology. Super way to engage students during a lesson.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SxAj2lyX4oU>

**Follow Shelby on Twitter: @ctselmore**

**FAQ:** How can I get Office365 on my home computer?

**ANSWER:** As part of your Office365 account, you actually have the rights to install Office 2016 suite of apps on your home computer or personal laptop. The installation verifies your eligibility through Office 365, so you have to sign into your account to access the download. Watch the video below to see how simple it is to get this useful software on your own computer!



Video Link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwlyYi12RJr-bC1QdmtvOXJJZWs/view?usp=sharing>

## Shelby's Technology Tip of the Month:

Organize Your Bookmarks in Firefox



Bookmarks are a great way to save your favorite sites. Did you know that you can create folders to organize those sites? Create folders by standard, skill or subject. Maybe you just want to keep folders to separate websites you use for work from the ones you use at home. You can teach students to create folders for their works cited when compiling resources for a report or project. If you sign into your browser and sync you can access your saved bookmarks from any computer, anywhere by simply signing into the browser.

### Making new folders

1. Click the Bookmarks button  and select **Show All Bookmarks** to open the Library window.
2. Hold down the Ctrl key while you click on the folder which will contain the new folder, then select **New Folder...**
3. In the New Folder window, type a name and a description for the folder you want to create.

### Putting bookmarks into folders

1. Click the Bookmarks button  and select **Show All Bookmarks** to open the Library window.
2. Click on the folder that holds the bookmark you want to move.
3. Drag the bookmark over the folder you want it moved to. Release the button to move the bookmark into the folder.

## Need More Apple Training?

Apple Teacher, a self-paced program for teachers to build skills on teaching with Mac or iPad as well as personal productivity and creativity with both devices. Teachers will earn badges as they progress through the various modules on their way to becoming an "Apple Teacher." I highly recommend these modules for all teachers and instructional support staff in the district including the instructional technology integration team. It may even be beneficial if Principals encourage their teachers to go through these modules to get more out of teaching with the Mac or iPad. <http://www.apple.com/education/teachers/> To start the course, please have teachers click on the link that reads "Sign up for the Apple Teacher program" and follow the path to teaching with the Mac or iPad. Note these modules lead teachers through many of the great curriculum resources that are available for teaching with iPad and Mac at <http://itunes.com/foreducators>.



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

## Jennifer's App of the Month: Google Classroom



Classroom helps teachers save time, keep classes organized, and improve communication with students. It is designed to help teachers create, collect, and grade assignments paperlessly, including timesaving features like the ability to automatically make a copy of a Google Doc for each student.

Students can keep track of what's due on the Assignments page and begin working with just a click. Teachers can quickly see who has or hasn't completed the work, and provide direct, real-time feedback and grades right in Classroom.

With the mobile app for iOS, students and teachers can view their classes and communicate with their classmates in real time. Students can open their assignments and work on them right from their phone or tablet. Teachers can keep track of who has turned in work and grade the assignment - at school or on the go. Students and teachers receive notifications when they have new content in Classroom, so they are always up to date.

### There are many benefits to using Classroom:

- **Easy to set up**  
*Teachers can add students directly or share a code with their class to join. It takes just minutes to set up.*
- **Improves organization**  
*Students can see all of their assignments on an assignments page, and all class materials are automatically filed into folders in Google Drive.*
- **Saves time**  
*The simple, paperless assignment workflow allows teachers to create, review, and grade assignments quickly, all in one place.*
- **Enhances communication**  
*Classroom allows teachers to send announcements and start class discussions instantly. Students can share resources with each other or provide answers to questions on the stream.*

**FAQ:** How can I get a Google Classroom account to use in my classroom?

**ANSWER:** It's easy! Just send an email to your Classroom Technology Coach. We will create a user account for you, and provide you with a temporary password. We can also help you customize your Classroom page, add your classes, and get your students imported!

**Follow Jennifer on Twitter: @dsctc**

**NEW! Next month:**

**Learn how to add Learn360 videos to your Google Classroom!**



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

You CAN use Google Classroom on shared iPads!

#### Teach your students to log out.

The key to using Google Classroom on an iPad with multiple students is teaching the students to make sure they sign out after using the app.



#### Turn it in.

Students can use almost any app to demonstrate their learning. Students can then submit that work directly to the Google Classroom app.



If you would like the Google Classroom app installed on your shared iPads, just submit a help ticket and choose iPad as your help topic. Your Classroom Technology Coach will have the app sent to your iPads.



**Tina Streeter**

Webmaster/  
Learn360  
Coordinator

Follow Tina on  
Twitter:  
**@TinaStreeter2**

## Tina's Website of the Month:

**TheKidShouldSeeThis.com**

<http://thekidshouldseethis.com>

The **Kid Should See This** is an educational video website that was created by a teacher and her child. When her child would come to her and say, "Mommy you HAVE to see this!" she would throw them up on her YouTube channel. The channel grew so many followers, she decided to start her own website. **TKSST** is great for conversation starters, curious minds, and exploration. With over 2,600 videos, I promise you will find something to wow every child in your classroom!



Check out "[How Does It Grow? Pumpkins](#)", about the different kinds of pumpkins, or "[What Causes Cavities](#)", an animation by Andrew Foerster. Students will be astounded by the video, "[What Happens to Your Checked Luggage at the Airport?](#)", "[The Amazing Triple Spiral \(15,000 Dominoes\)](#)", and "[How to Make a 3D Hologram with your SmartPhone & a CD Jewel Case](#)".

## Teacher Website Tip:

### Adding Pictures to Your Teacher Website

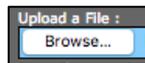
Want to "jazz" up your teacher website? Here's how!

1. Log in to your teacher website and go to the page where you would like to add the pictures.

2. On the toolbar, click the "**Image Gallery**" button.



3. Click the "**Browse**" button.



4. Look for the **picture** you would like to upload from your computer files, **select it**, and then choose "**Open**".

5. Click the "**Upload**" button to upload the picture.



6. Now, you simply "**drag and drop**" the picture onto the page you are working on.



## More Great Websites

to consider...

\*\*Want to make some quick, awesome graphics for your teacher websites or classroom? Try <http://www.picmonkey.com>. You don't even have to create a login!

\*\*Searching for that perfect app becoming time-consuming? DCSTeachers has curated some awesome apps for you. [Click here!](#)

\*\*Use <http://www.photosforclass.com> to search for copyright-free images for your websites and classroom projects.

\*\* Trying to get your students' creative juices flowing? Try <http://www.wonderopolis.org>! Every day, Wonderopolis features a brand new wonder!

\*\*Looking for a fun website to add to your collection for your students? Try National Geographic Games for Kids by [clicking here!](#)



# Computer 101 with Mr. Hicks:

## Malware



**Pete Hicks**  
Asst. Director



### What is Malware?

Malware is short for "malicious software". It usually consists of annoying or harmful types of software intended to secretly access a device without the user's knowledge. This can be in the form of computer viruses, worms, ransomware, spyware, or ad-ware.

### Tips for Avoiding Malware:

The single biggest factor in preventing a malware infection on your PC is you. You don't need expert knowledge or special training. These tips can help at home or at school.

- **Stay current.** Keep your computer's operating system up to date. Also, make sure you have Antivirus software installed. Keep it up to date as well. Last year's flu shot won't help you this year. Similarly, antivirus software installed last year cannot protect you from viruses created last week, *unless* it is kept up to date.
- **Think Before You Click.** If a pop-up ad sounds too good to be true, it probably is. You are NOT the 1 millionth visitor to a website, and you did NOT win a new Xbox. Sorry. ☺
- **Be careful what programs you install.** Many legitimate programs can come with extra ad-ons that you may not want. Here at DCS, always contact your tech person before installing programs to your computer.
- **Do not open unsolicited attachments in emails.** Do not open emails or attachments unless you trust the source. Always scan attachments with your antivirus software.
- **Be careful where you surf.** Many computer infections are caused by visiting un-safe websites or infected websites.
- **Do Not Be Intimidated Or Fooled By Scare Tactics.** If your computer gives you pop-ups that are trying to scare you into entering personal information, STOP! Contact tech support right away.



No matter how careful you are, you will encounter malware if you use a computer. If you notice any strange behavior from your technology here at school, contact a tech person immediately.

## 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:** November 7th & 14th, 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

"Weebly Websites for Education: Part 1"

**Where:** Horn Lake Intermediate Computer Lab

**When:** November 15th and 29th, 2016  
4:30 until 7:00 p.m.

**Target Audience:** Pre-K-12 Certified Teachers

### Charlotte Wilson

"Renaissance"

**Where:** Pleasant Hill Elementary

**When:** November 7th & 8th, 2016  
4:30 until 7:00 p.m.

**Target Audience:** Administrators, Teachers, Special Services

### Cassie Sanders and Jennifer Klinger

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

**Where:** DeSoto Central Middle Library

**When:** November 10th & 17th, 2016  
4:30 until 7:00 p.m.

**Target Audience:** Certified Teachers who have completed Part 1

### Pete Hicks

"Computer Basics"

**Where:** DeSoto Central Middle (Houston's Lab)

**When:** November 10th & 17th, 2016  
4:30 until 7:00 p.m.

**Target Audience:** All Certified Staff/Teachers

### Shelby Elmore

"SmartBoard Basics: Entry Level Course"

**Where:** ONLINE (This course is closed to new participants)

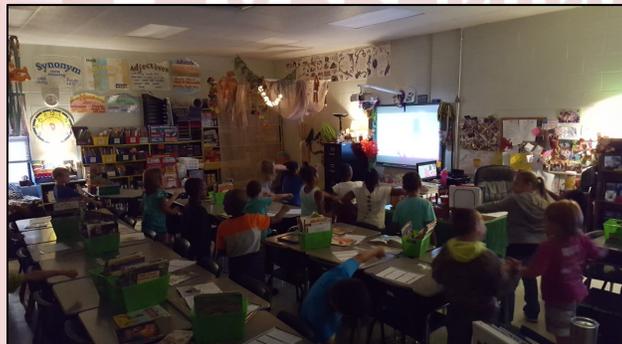
**When:** October 3rd - November 18th, 2016

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

# TECH HAPPENINGS...



Students in Mrs. Hurdle's Kindergarten class at HSES listen to "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you See?" on their new iPods.



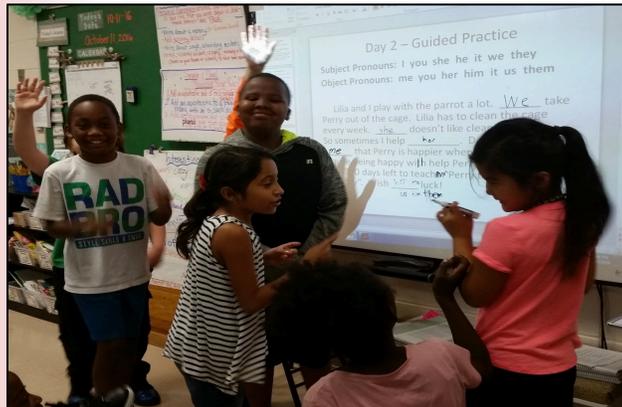
Mrs. Sylenda Janes's class takes a GoNoodle break at CES.



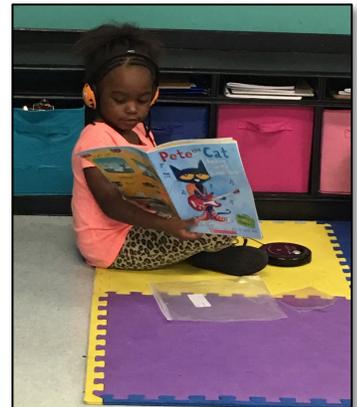
iPod shuffles makes reading along to the books so much more fun at CES!



A 9th grader in Mrs. Jones's class at HHS creates a Greek Gods MLA Research Poster for a classroom presentation.



Making a game out of their grammar lesson in Mrs. Casie Sachse's class at SIS. Who can write the correct pronoun?



"Pete the Cat" is always a class favorite in Mrs. Sommerfeld's 2nd grade classroom at HSES.