

Become a Tech Scout!



Do you miss being a girl scout or a boy scout? If so, this PD is for you! We are giving you the chance to earn badges once again. These aren't just any badges, however. These are specialized digital learning badges granted to you from The Davis Academy.

Not that motivated by badges? That's okay too. This PD strand will allow you to choose your own adventure. Your course you will choose.



Here's how it works:

You may select the challenges that you wish to tackle. You are not required to go in any specific order. We will check in during your regularly scheduled tech integration meetings to see where you are and where you wish to go in your challenges. It is a good idea to keep track of those that you have tackled so that you can add up your points accordingly. Based on the number of points that you earn, you will receive a super cool Tech Badge that can be posted on your blog. There are four levels of Davis Tech Scouting:

Tech Grand Master
65- 78 points



Tech Master
50- 65 points



Tech Knight
40-55 points



Tech Padawan
25- 39 points



Below are the challenges that have been outlined for you. There is not a recommended order to the challenges below. However, please note that the first two challenges are mandatory, one of which must be done before getting started and there's no time like the present! Just remember, there is no such thing as an expert in the world of technology integration. As the tools are continuously changing, so is the learning and the teaching process. The good news is that It keeps things exciting. Get ready for a learning adventure!

Mandatory Challenge: The Very First Thing

Before you begin, you will need to create a blog (or use a pre-existing one...you've just collected 5 points and didn't have to do anything!). The blog is where you will track your progress by keeping a journal of the challenges you tackle, reflect upon your experiences, and toot your own

horn (or in this case, raise your Jedi wand). You can use any blogging service that you wish. My personal favorite is blogger but feel free to explore Wordpress, Wix, Weebly, Edublogs, or another that hasn't been mentioned here. You can be super creative here. It's your blank canvas. I threw a sample together for you here: <http://sbrown69.wix.com/jediwand> but feel free to deviate completely from my example. **(5 points)**

Mandatory Challenge for Fall & Spring: Collaborate to Innovate

Invite Technology Strategist (this can be an administrator, another tech-savvy teacher, the 21st century learning coordinator, or a PhD candidate) into your classroom to offer suggestions on different ways to innovate technology within your classroom. *Note: this will require the Tech Strategist to come to your classroom and it will require a debriefing period shortly thereafter the classroom visit. **(5 points a visit)**

Challenge: Grow Your Tool Box

Pick one of the following apps or websites that you have never used before and integrate its usage into your classroom instruction. Share the above success and failures with a colleague. Blog or tweet about this experience. ***Your goal is to acquire at leasts 5 points from this section.***

App:

- iMovie (4 points)
- GreenScreen (4 points)
- Aurasma (4 points)
- BookCreator (3 points)
- ShowMe (1 point)
- PicCollage (1 point)
- Wordfoto (1 point)
- Songify (2 points)
- Educreations (1 point)
- PuppetPals (2 points)

Websites:

- Glogster (2 Points)
- Meograph (3 Points)
- TimeToast (2 Points)
- GoogleDocs (3 Points)
- Google Story Builder (3 Points)
- ThingLink (4 Points)
- Padlet (2 Points)
- TodaysMeet (1 Point)
- Tagxedo/Wordle (1 Point)

Challenge: Expanding Your PLN

1 Point: Follow the ten educators below to enhance your Personal Learning Network (PLN):

@tonyvincent
@TechChef4U
@Rmbyrne
@ClassTechTips
@burgessdave
@shellterrell
@paulsolarz
@TechMinock
@coursa
@felixjacomino

2 Points: Find a Twitter chat on the topic of education that interests you. Participate in that Twitter chat this week. Click [here](#) to find the list of Twitter chats. There are quite a few to choose from.

3 Points: Listen to an educational podcast. You can seek one out through your personal itunes account OR you can download the free app Stitcher onto your iPad and download one from there. You can adjust your settings so that you can listen to it later offline. This would be a great solution for listening to the podcast during your morning or afternoon commute. Some suggested podcasts are Techlandia, TwoTechChicks, and EduAllStars. ***Bonus point:** share an episode of your podcast with a colleague & encourage them to listen too.

4 Points: Record your own podcast for your team or our school community. Share a tech tool, share a project that you did in class, or something share-worthy of your choice. You can record your podcast using audioboo, soundcloud, iTalk, or a different tool of your choosing.

Challenge: Strut Your Stuff

1 Point: Share a tech integration strategy or tool with a colleague. This can be a tool that you have used in your classroom, or one that you think your colleague would appreciate. Shoot us a quick email to let us know how it went!

2 Points: Share a tech integration strategy/project at a faculty meeting.

3 Points: Create a multimedia video highlighting tech integration within your classroom and share your video using social media.

4 Points: Be super brave. Present at a conference.

Challenge: Hanging Out in the Universe

1 Point: Connect with another class using social media such as Edmodo or Twitter.

2 Points: Conduct a mystery skype or mystery google hangout with another class.

3 Points: Collaborate on a project with another classroom outside of the building. Examples of some handy collaboration tools include GoogleDocs, Edmodo, and/or TodaysMeet.

Challenge: Blogging Bonanza

1 Point: Discover a professional blog written by someone else that speaks to you. Subscribe to this blog in a RSS Feed, such as Feedly, so you can read its contents regularly.

2 Points: Connect with another educator by commenting on their blog posts. Don't forget to leave your blog site so that they may reciprocate.

Infinity & beyond: One point for every blog post that you make on your professional blog that you share with others via a social media tool.

Challenge: Join the Cult

1 Point: Recruit a colleague to participate in a Twitter chat recommended by YOU. Shoot us an email to let us know how it went!

2 Points: Facilitate or lead a Twitter chat.

3 Points: Start your own Twitter chat from scratch. Create your own hashtag for others to participate in your Twitter chat. Own it!

Challenge: Out and About

3 Points: Attend GaETC

3 Points: Visit an area makerspace. ([Freeside Atlanta](#), [Decatur Makers](#), [MakerFaire Atlanta](#))

3 Points: Reach out to a local classroom and plan a professional field trip for yourself.

3 Points: Post one tweet each day for a week to share the great work that you are doing within your classroom. Don't be shy...be a braggart. Let us see your week in tweets!

Challenge: Take a Walk

3 Points: Lower School: Take your class to the Idea Lab and integrate one of the following resources into your lesson: Idea Paint, Lego Robotic Kits, and/or Sphero Robot balls.

Middle School: Take your class to the mediascape room, the fishbowl, or the MacLab and require collaboration to inspire creativity.

Challenge: App Smashing

Beware. This is an addictive challenge. Use multiple apps on the iPad or the Lenova Laptops to create one product. The more apps your students use, the more sophisticated the iPad fluency and the more points you can earn. Not quite sure what an app smash looks like? Click [here](#) for inspiration.

1 Point: App smash with two apps

2 Points: App smash with three apps

4 points: App smash with four or more apps

Bonus point: Tweet one of your student creations to #appsmash4

2 Bonus points: Create an infographic detailing an app smash so others can easily follow in your footsteps.

Challenge: Be Original

Infinite Points: Create a tech challenge of your own. Write it up on your professional blog. Send it to other educators. ***You will earn a point for every person that tackles your challenge.***

Inspired by Brad Gustafson's [Digital Leadership Challenge](#)