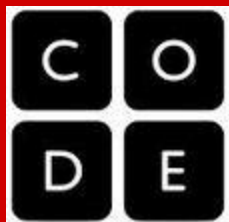


tech news



December, 2014

Hour of Code set for Dec. 8-14



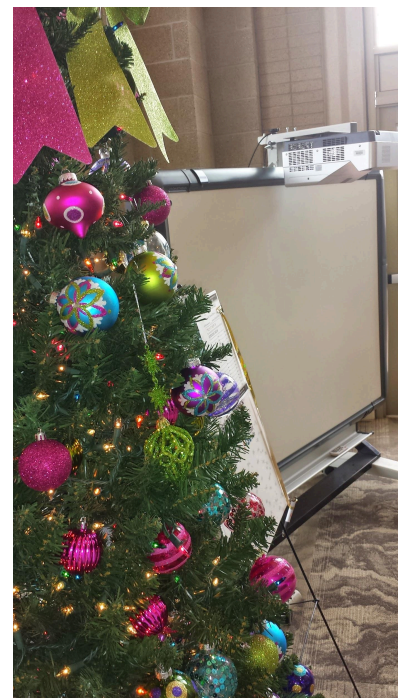
The **Hour of Code** is a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify code and show that **anybody** can learn the basics. View this [video](#) about the Hour of Code project and check out code.org -- plan to be a part!

*Any classrooms that join the Hour of Code, please let us know: techpd@sd25.us.

Festival of Trees

According to the [Festival of Trees website](#): *Again this year, all proceeds will go toward the purchase and installation of 21st Century technology for use by teachers and students, and to establish a fund for teachers to access through competitive grants for instructional enhancements in the classrooms. Last year, over \$89,000 in technology was awarded to 45 teachers. This technology will impact the academic success of more than 4000 students every year.*

Be looking for grant info that will be emailed out in January. Happy Holidays!



Going Google!

Classroom Noise Apps

To gauge your classroom's noise level --and let students know!--here are some tools you can use on your computer or device:

For the computer (uses your computer's microphone)

- <https://bouncyballs.org/>
- <http://www.ictgames.com/calculator.html>

For an iPad: <http://toonoisyapp.com/>

For Android: [Too Noisy](#)

You can also create background sounds to create relaxing atmosphere during classroom activities. Check out this site for your computer

<http://www.noisli.com/> or for iPad: [Noisli](#) (\$1.99)

We are delighted to share that our district will be rolling out Google Apps for Education (GAFE) **soon!** (Much more information to come.) While there are [many Google Apps](#), the ones that we are most excited about are Google Drive (docs, sheets, presentation, forms) and [Google Classroom](#) (for collaboration and writing feedback). If you are not sure what GAFE is all about, check out these Q&As and links:

Google™ Apps

What are Google Apps?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWDI_249CFY

Will we have all of the apps that Google offers?

No, not all of them, including no mail. But, we will have Drive and Classroom, among a few others that teachers and students can use to share, create, collaborate, and communicate through.

What if I or my students already have Gmail or Google accounts?

No problem! You can have multiple Google accounts. There are benefits, however, of having accounts in the same domain with students. Plus teachers and students get to enjoy more storage and security with GAFE.

How much storage space is available?

Your personal Google account provides you with at least 15 GB of Drive storage. With GAFE, each user has **unlimited storage!** Yes, you read that right!

What kinds of devices will support GAFE?

If the device has a browser, then it supports GAFE (ipads, smartphones, laptops, desktops, tablets). The preferred browser is Chrome.

Does this mean we're getting rid of Microsoft and Outlook?

No, not at all! Microsoft Office suite is still available for student and staff use, and we are keeping Outlook. GAFE is an addition, not a replacement.

Safety First!

Leaving your computer unlocked increases the potential for misuse. You don't have to log completely out or shut down. Instead, use the **Windows key + the letter L to lock your computer** when you are away from it -- easy, fast, and safe!



If you have any questions, please contact the HelpDesk at 235-3219 or email helpdesk@sd25.us

Finding blocked email

Have you ever thought, "Hey, why didn't I ever get email from that one parent?" It's possible your email is being blocked by the district's Lightspeed email filter. The good news is, you receive a daily email with the blocked emails that you can access and have delivered.

[CLICK HERE for description of locating blocked email](#)

If you aren't finding your Daily Email Summary, you can use the link below. Call the HelpDesk to have them set you up with the Daily Email Summary.

Bookmark for future reference:
http://ls.sd25.us/user_portal/login

Looking ahead: Adobe Acrobat Pro and Photoshop arriving shortly. For more info, go to [Moodle Tech Training](#).

Lync Tech Trainings for Teachers

Due to the short month, there will be one optional session focusing on iPad apps in the classroom. If you are interested in how other schools are using their iPads, join us for a collaborative Lync session!

ELEMENTARY Schedule: **Save the date!**

Appy Hour	Tues, Dec 9	3:00 P.M. Sharing of apps used in the classroom
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SECONDARY Schedule: **Save the date!**

Appy Hour	Thurs, Dec 11	8:00 A.M. iPad research apps
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Apple TV and iPads in the classroom

Why use Apple TV to project an iPad's screen? You can do any number of these in your classroom while mirroring your iPad to the projector:

- Be free to move around the room
- Demonstrate apps or sites
- Display pictures of student or teacher work
- Have students display their screens
- Read ebooks together
- View videos together
- Use interactive whiteboard apps
- Use the iPad as a document camera

Have other ideas for using an iPad and Apple TV? Join us for Appy Hour!

Technology Tip: Grade Book Set Up for new trimester

Teachers, you will need to set up your grade book **each** trimester. At the beginning of the year, you probably already made changes to the General Settings and Preferences. These settings are for your entire grade book. However, each trimester's sections also need to be set up for Grade Calc options and Categories.

If you haven't set up your grade book for second trimester, and you need a little help, here are links that will take you directly to the resources in Moodle. If you need any help logging into Moodle, please don't hesitate to contact us!

- Elementary Grade book Setup [CLICK HERE](#)
- Secondary Grade book Setup [CLICK HERE](#)
- For K-12 teachers, look in the folder "Grade Book Setup" [CLICK HERE](#)

If you need any assistance with setting up your grade book, we are here for you!

