

Tech Tips for Teachers

February 2024

What is Vivi?

You may have heard some talk of Vivi devices from myself or teachers at BPS. Vivi is a company that allows wireless screen mirroring and digital signage specifically for education.

For those using Vivi devices, they are replacing the Google casting feature that had become a bit unstable and also wasn't totally secure from connections from others. Vivi has some other cool features like screening out the ads in YouTube videos, sharing a single tab or your entire screen, displaying a variety of timers, whiteboards, polling, and even granting control to students. Vivi's signage feature has also allowed us to display announcements and events on the TV in the high school hallway. We do have a few more Vivi devices if you have a TV and would like to try it out.

There will be a Zoom training on the Vivi devices on Wednesday, February 14th at 3:30 pm. Feel free to join from the comfort of your desk so that you can be connected and practice as the training happens. A Zoom meeting link will be sent out soon!



Alumni Display is Up to Date

The Alumni display in the hallway by the Principal's office is up to date! We were finally able to raise enough money for the final set of composites to be scanned in and digitized. This final scan included the classes of 2003-2019, which have now been added to the display as well as to the button linked "Burwell Alumni Site" on the school website. Thanks to everyone who gave your support for this project!



IXL Learning-Digital Learning Curriculum (Burwell Elementary)

Did you know that all students in grades 1-6 have access to the IXL Digital Learning curriculum at school and at home? Teachers can assign standards based content in math, language arts, science and social studies or students can browse through individually appropriate content on their own.

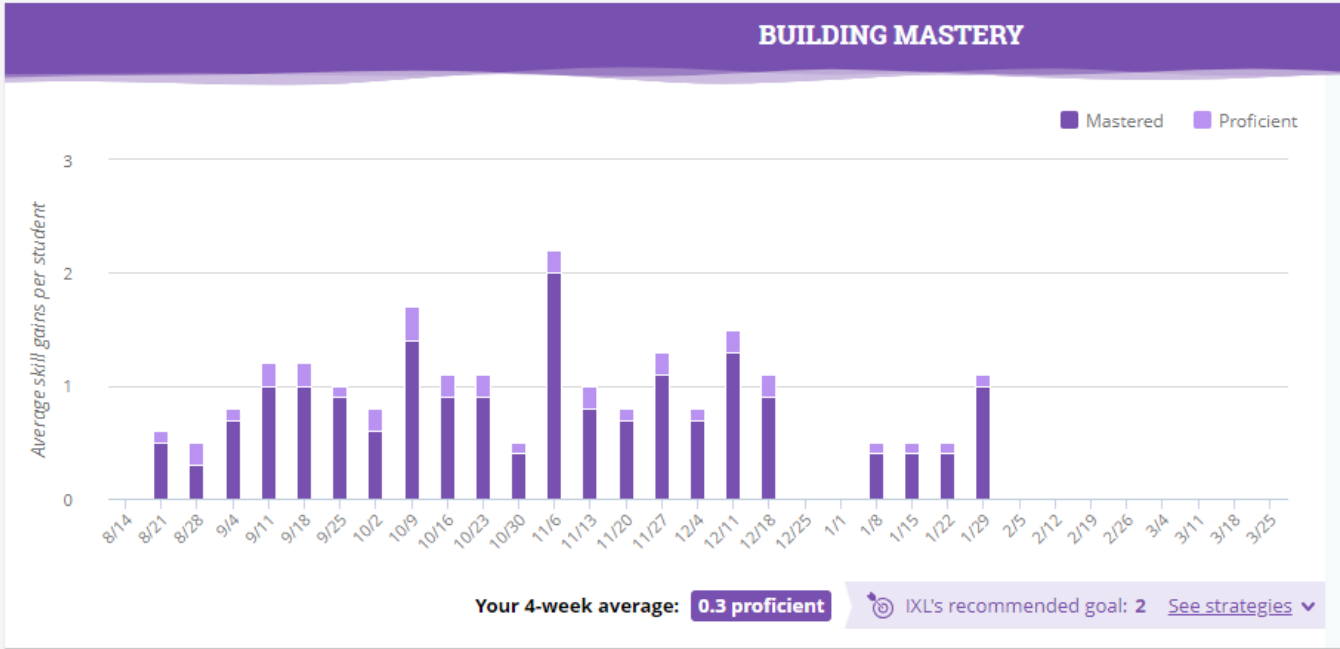
Teachers can use IXL to create quizzes in many subject areas (math, language arts, science, and social studies.). After subject and grade



are selected, IXL auto-populates the categories that students are likely studying based on state standards and makes recommendations for pre-created questions.

IXL's biggest strength is the insight it provides teachers, about individual students and their class as a whole. It does this with in-depth item analysis, student usage data, and trouble spot identification, which allows parents and teachers to get the specific information they need to differentiate instruction. The dashboard gives teachers a real-time snapshot of their class and individual students: how many are currently active and where students might be having challenges.

Below is the Mastery chart for Burwell Elementary. If you need help getting in to IXL or assigning topics please let Mrs. Weber know.



A.I.--Transforming Our World

If there's a buzz topic in technology right now, it's definitely A.I. (Artificial Intelligence). For some, it may be intimidating or even scary, but it doesn't have to be! Google recommends following these 7 principles for using AI in education.

Our roles as educators have continued to change over the years. With technology comes a bit of hesitancy, especially with



something as powerful as AI. In our schools, we have to provide opportunities for students to learn about changing technology because of the impact it may have on their future. Not only can AI tools enhance creativity and productivity, but also they can provide educators with valuable insights into student learning and assist with some of the time-consuming tasks that educators have.

Just like students are finding AI fun and interesting, teachers are also enjoying some AI tools! Here are the top 7 recommendations from *Edtopia.com*.

1. [AudioPen](#): For years, people have been using voice-to-text to write blogs, books, emails, and lesson plans. This is an AI-powered web app that you can use on your computer or phone. The app takes your words and enhances them as it generates the text, which you can edit as needed.

2. [Canva Magic Write](#): Canva now offers an AI text-to-image generator called Magic Write, which can inspire creativity in writing. It provides ideas, helps with brainstorming, and supports lesson planning, making it a useful tool for educators for creating a presentation or other graphic for classroom use. Magic Write can assist with many writing tasks that educators may have by analyzing the word prompts and then helping with brainstorming, creating an outline, writing lesson plans, or generating a visually engaging presentation in far less time.

3. [Curipod](#): This website enables teachers to create interactive lessons in minutes using AI. Students can explore various topics, and the AI functionality helps generate customized lessons tailored to their learning needs. Teachers simply type in a topic, and a ready-to-run lesson is generated with text, images, and activities such as polls, open-ended responses, word clouds, and more. There are even activities to build in that focus on SEL check-ins.

4. [Eduaide.AI](#): This is an AI-assisted lesson-development tool that provides educators with more than 100 resource types to choose from to create high-quality instructional materials. It offers the ability to translate the generated content into more than 15 languages instantly. Educators can generate a syllabus, create discussion prompts, use the “teaching assistant” for help with creating individualized education program plans, write emails, or even compile a list of accommodations for students. Eduaide.AI has a content generator, teaching assistant, feedback bot, free-form chat, and assessment builder.

5. [OpenAI](#): The recently released [Teaching with AI guide](#) for teachers was created to help educators use ChatGPT in their classroom. The guide comes with several suggested prompts and includes explanations that clarify exactly how ChatGPT works and what its limitations are, and it provides reminders of the importance of verifying information and checking for bias. With ChatGPT 4, which is a paid version, there is greater accuracy and reliability of information than with the original version.

6. [Quizizz](#): With Quizizz, teachers can design quizzes that will create a personalized learning path based on each student’s responses. Teachers can also create lessons with Quizizz, which now has an AI enhancement that can adjust question difficulty, check grammar, and redesign questions to reflect real-world scenarios, with more features on the way.

7. [Slidesgo](#): This tool provides access to free templates via Google Slides and now has the AI Presentation Maker. With this new functionality, presentations can be created within minutes. Simply choose a topic; select a tone such as casual, creative, or professional; make changes; and download your presentation. A time-saver for sure!

Mrs. Weber's Tech Innovations Class

Did you know that Mrs. Weber's Tech class has a plethora of tools from a Weverka grant that can be helpful to you? The class is equipped with a full Adobe suite of products (including PhotoShop) with an iMac computer, a sublimation printer with heat press that can create items



such as graphic t-shirts and bags, a 500-sheet paper cutter, a high resolution scanner, and the most recent addition, a 3D printer! The students have used these tools to create things such as custom t-shirts and sweatshirts, custom tote bags, customized Longhorn notepads, Longhorn holiday cards, cattle sorting flags, custom logo designs, the community school report for the School Board, plaques for school events and much more! They also opened a school spirit store with items that were designed or created by the class or in partnership with local makers. Let Mrs. Weber know if they can help you with a project!

FUN STUFF

Google Classroom



Encourage participation with random student selector.

Toss that jar of popsicle sticks for something better. Google Classroom has a random student selector in its mobile apps (iOS and Android). Tap the People tab. Then, choose the icon in the top right corner for the random student selector.

The selector will choose students randomly. It'll show you how often the student has been called. You can also mark a student as absent or choose to call them later.



NEW PRODUCT! KeyMaster Learning Lights Keyboard with blank or visible keys. Turn them on for a standard keyboard or turn them off to teach touch keyboarding!

In your classrooms, events and holidays are GREAT times to incorporate fun, real-world activities into your lessons to educate on different topics. What better event to plan a fun and engaging activity than the upcoming Super Bowl? Here are some ideas:

- [Card Sharks PPT about the finances of the Super Bowl](#)
- [Marketing & the Super Bowl](#)
- [#DeflateGate, a Super Bowl STEM Lesson](#) (Edutopia's Community), by Ainissa Ramirez (2015)
- [Five-Minute Film Festival: The Science of Sports](#), by Keyana Stevens (2014)
- [Using Football to Teach Financial Literacy at Middle School](#), by Brian Page (2014)
- [Using Football Science to Tackle STEM Education](#), by Ainissa Ramirez (2013)
- [Learning About Music With Touchdown Songs](#): This lesson plan, featured on ARTSEDGE from The Kennedy Center, provides a fun way to learn about music through the prism of football. The lesson is designed for students 12-18 years old and covers marching band fight songs, half-time sounds, and music from NFL Films.
- [Videos: The Science of NFL Football](#): These insightful and engaging video lessons feature several lessons for students, covering topics like geometry, nutrition, and Newton's laws of motion. On the newly launched Gooru Learning website, there's also a great [list of accompanying lesson plans](#). For more sports science videos, check out [ESPN's collection](#).



Hey! Thanks for reading this issue of Tech Tips for Teachers! Email me your SuperBowl prediction to get entered into a gift card drawing!