

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Tech Tips for the whole year
- Class Dojo...a must have
- What are cloud grannies?
- Virtual Reality...It's here!
- To Blog or not to Blog?
- Make the most out of Microsoft...
- And more...

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TEACHER TECH

Tech Tips for the Whole Year...

Looking for new ways to update your class? Do you want to try and incorporate the latest and greatest?

Well look no further, Teacher Tech has information on the tools you need to upgrade your classroom and get the most out of the tech you have in use.



The future is WOW!!

Class Dojo, the new must have...

Class Dojo can create a positive classroom culture and keep information at your and (parents) fingertips.

It is completely customizable and can fit with any behavior support system like PBIS, or Leader Me in as well as many others.

Share digital "high-fives", portfolios and more!

Class Dojo also provides resources for beginning of the year such as letters, class kits and more. Plus the best part is it is free to teachers!



Making the most out of Microsoft

Apps Galore!



Microsoft isn't just for word docs anymore! See what Microsoft has to offer to educators, from Skye in the classroom to lesson plan, communities and gamification the world of Microsoft has grown.

Microsoft has expanded into many apps that are available as well to enhance

class presentations and ways to share the work your students create.

From support with math from Fluidity to PROMPT an online dictionary and translator app.

The possibilities are endless.

“Engagement was off the charts!”

VR...it's here... Now!

Curiosity quite neatly translates to motivation – and that's one of VR's superpowers. If you ask teachers why they like to use virtual reality, they all agree on one thing: VR grasps students' attention. “The first difference was with student engagement,” says Gifted Resource Teacher Brian Schumann about his first

VR project where students created immersive book interpretations. Instructional Technology Teacher Benjamin Lloyd made very similar experiences with his virtual reality vocabulary project: “Engagement was off the



charts,” he says. “We are seeing an excitement that we haven't seen towards vocabulary in a while.”



Get students writing! That is the goal of Write About .

With the ability to publish, share stories with classmates, provide feedback and get prompts to encourage students to write more, Write

about is a digital storytelling dream!

It has hundreds of ideas filtered by grade level or by category. You can also add images and text

and voice to really make your stories come alive.

To Blog or not to Blog?

When we think of blogs, we typically think of opinion pieces made by the blogger, or perhaps how to start on how to create something. But blogging can be used in the classroom as well.

By setting up a class blog, you are able to communicate with students and their parents, you can share course information and you can allow students to participate in a shared blog where they can engage in

healthy debate and share ideas.

Blogging in education has been on the upswing, many classes are getting their feet wet and exploring this communication option. If you are interested in getting a blog started, there are many education sites that can help with the process. A few are Edublogs, 21Publish and Kidblog to name a few.



Using Podcasts in the classroom...

Podcasting in the classroom is the latest trend. More schools are opting to use podcasting in their classroom as it stimulates learning through creative means and open lines of communication. A few benefits are:

Ease of Accessibility:

Podcasts enable students to access the information any time they want. Students can down-

load the information to the device of their choice and listen/watch whenever they are free. For a generation well versed in handling technology, downloading podcasts requires only basic technical knowledge and skills.

Archive of lessons:

Staff can record their classes and upload it online, creating an ar-

chive of lessons. This allows students to access previous lectures for reference and clarification on a subject. If students are absent the opportunity to catch up is readily available. Similarly, if a teacher misses a class, they can post the lesson online and make it available to the students.

What are Cloud Grannies?

The Granny Cloud consists of 100+ dedicated volunteers from around the world who Skype into remote locations to chat with children.

By encouraging rather than giving outright instruction, they guide students on their SOLE adventures. Don't be fooled by the name – you don't need to be an actual granny to be a part of the Granny Cloud.

Grannies currently range in age from 24 to 78, and are both male and female. What they all share is a universal “grandmother approach” to education. By providing unconditional encouragement, Grannies create an environment where children can thrive.

For even more check out the TED talk that Sugata Mitra gave that

inspired it all.



School
in the  Cloud

formative



“Intervene in the moments that matter most.”

Want a way to assess student and reduce paperwork?

Formative is what you need!

This assessment tool allows teachers to create dynamic tests using typing, drawing, showing work or even submitting images.

Formative runs on any internet connected device and is optimized for any 1:1, flipped

or blended classroom.

Formative accounts are free to teachers and students.

Formative works in four easy steps:

1. Create an assignment
2. Assign to Students
3. Receive Live Results
4. Give Feedback

It really is that simple!

Versal: a new way to flip...



Versal is a dynamic way to explore a flipped classroom.

It allows you to create lessons, embedded interactive exercises,

develop assessments and import you already created docs.

The best part is, you don't need to be an IT superstar to create courses.

The courses you cre-

ate are already mobile, you don't need to install apps!

You can get learner analytics at a drop of a hat.

Versal has many options to become a member, the best one is being a teacher (you can get it for free!)

What users are saying...

Math Coach, School Type: High School, Low Income Population
 ★★★★★ — **Advocate**
Verdict: Recommend: I would recommend using this product because it is user friendly and can integrate anything from PowerPoint to Prezi to Youtube to Quizlet to pretty much anything! It's great and it's absolutely beautiful!

What are you wondering about?



Where the Wonders of Learning Never Cease® WONDEROPOLIS®

Make wondering a daily activity. Wonderopolis is a great tool for the imagination and fact finding. Engage students with 'spark' questions for writing prompt and follow up with the facts behind the questions.

The excitement of learning that comes from curiosity and wonder is undeniable, and Wonderopolis helps create learning moments in everyday life—from ones that fit in with dinner preparations to school curriculum and education programs. With multi-disciplinary content that purposefully aligns

to Common Core State Standards the STEM Educational Quality Framework and Bloom's Digital Taxonomy, they've earned a place in K-12 curriculum and in classrooms worldwide. Teachers can use the daily Wonder to jumpstart their students' critical thinking, or dip into our ever-growing collection of Wonders.

epic!

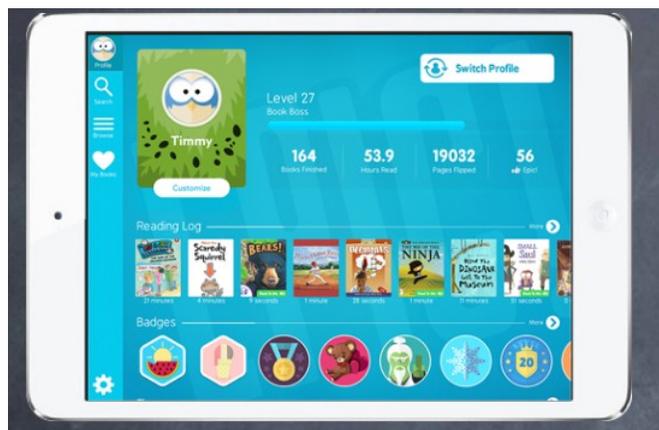
What is better than books?
How about free books!

Epic! Is free for Elementary School Teachers and Librarians. You can create custom libraries for your students.

Epic!'s ebook library includes many of the [best kids books](#) and popular books such as [Fancy Nancy](#), [Big Nate](#), [Warriors](#), [Ramona](#), and

[National Geographic Kids](#).

You can assign profiles to your students, create custom quizzes and track reading progress and achievements.



IEP Apps

There are apps for everything these days...and now they even have apps for IEPs!

Several organizations now have apps to help build student case-loads, assemble goals, and develop exportable lists that fit your student needs.

Reduce the paper and keep a digital log.

Here are a few of them...

*note (most do require purchase)

- NASET IEP GOALS and Objective with Common Core State Standards (Apple Store)
- IEP Goals Activity Tracker (Apple and Android)
- IEPPAL (Apple)
- Schedule My IEP (Apple)

- Evernote (Apple and Android)
- My IEP Meeting (Apple)
- Fulcrum data Collection (apple and Android)
- FBA Collection (Apple and Android)
- Google Docs

SPED Updates...

Staying current on new trends and happenings can be a bit daunting, but these sites make it easy to keep on top of law changes, top stories, professional development and new resources in the world of Special Ed.

Check out the following sites:

[NASET](#) : National Assoc. of SPED Teachers

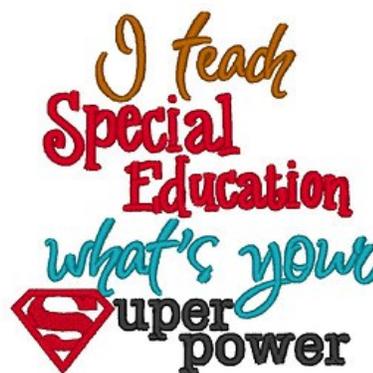
[CEC](#): Council for Exceptional Children

[TASH](#): The Assoc. for Persons with Severe Handicaps

[NCLD](#): National Center for Learning Disabilities

[The Arc](#): For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

[OSEP](#): Office of Special Education Programs (Federal)



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**BOOK TIME
WITH ME >**