



Technology Services Newsletter

Volume #2, Issue #1

September 15, 2008

Welcome Back!

I know that many of you have had a busy summer, but hopefully you were able to get some vacation time and enjoy the good weather we had this summer. It is hard to believe the new school year has begun already. The tech department was very busy as well this summer. Here are a few updates on our projects:

VMWare & VDI—We have begun to use VMWare on some of our servers and have moved several applications over to virtual machines this summer. So far we have been quite impressed with the ease of implementation and the efficiencies this will bring to our department. We have also begun to study the possibility of implementing Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) technology and may begin testing this technology out on some of our machines in the near future. We will discuss our progress on both of these more at some of our future meetings.

IGOR—Several trainings have been held already this school year, in multiple districts, to get staff engaged with the data warehouse. New enhancements that will be coming soon to IGOR will include the ability to manually input data, run reports on cohort groups of students and at-home access. All data available for the 2007-08 school year has been loaded and is ready to use.

MUNIS—See update on page 2.




SMS—Overview sessions were held in August and September. We gathered input from those who

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attended to help us write an RFP, which we anticipate will be done in October. The goal at this time is to implement a product in the 2009-10 school year.

Communication—The Tech Services Wiki has been updated and changed to incorporate more than just tech coordinator information. We have added pages for MUNIS, SMS and training information. The goal is for the Wiki to be a place for information, communication and collaboration for many aspects of our department. A Tech Services Blog has also been created, but it is not ready to be published yet. Stay tuned for the official launch of our new Blog.

Web Resources

-  [Edu 2.0](#) A free classroom management system that incorporates social networking.
-  [Digizen](#) Provides a variety of resources to help teachers, parents and students understand digital citizenship. Includes resources on social networking and cyberbullying.
-  [Skrbl](#) A free interactive white board that can be shared by groups across the internet.

Important Upcoming Dates

- 9/12 – Tech Coordinators & REMC Advisory Council mtg., 8:30-11:30, Muskegon Public Schools Admin Building**
- 10/8—State tech & curriculum director meeting, Lansing**
- 10/17—Tech Coordinators mtg., 8:30-11:30**

ISTE Webinar Series

MAISD will be hosting ISTE's "Technology In Practice" webinar series this year as a professional development opportunity. Several webinars will be offered each month, with topics ranging from Digital Storytelling to Teaching ESL with iPods. This PD opportunity will be free to those that attend. Registration through our online registration system will be required. For more information please see the attached informational flyer or the [ISTE website](#).

Statewide Meeting

MACUL, MAEDS, MASCD, the REMC Association of Michigan and the Michigan Department of Education will host a statewide meeting for technology and curriculum leaders on Wednesday, October 8 at the Holiday Inn South Convention Center (6820 South Cedar Street) in Lansing.

The meeting will provide an opportunity to hear updates on various state and national issues regarding educational technology and curriculum.

There is no charge for the meeting, and breakfast, lunch and parking are provided at no cost. The meeting is limited to the first 350 registrations. Please encourage your curriculum staff to attend this with you! To register, link to: <http://orchid.forest.net/macul/TechCoordMtg/default.htm>

For questions, contact the MACUL office: macul@macul.org or call 517.694.9756.

Technology Services Wiki

www.maisdtechnologyservices.wetpaint.com

Email Randy at rlindqui@muskegonisd.org if interested in being a wiki collaborator.

iTunes U—MI Learning

[MI Learning](#) on [iTunes U](#) was launched at NECC in July. MI Learning will offer educational audio, video and PDF files. Individuals and organizations throughout Michigan will be able to submit content to MI Learning that everyone will benefit from. Check out the information and links offered on the [MACUL](#) website.

MUNIS Phase Two Delay

It was originally planned that Phase Two of implementation for the MUNIS financial system would begin on October 1. The implementation for the accounting system of the Phase One districts has been more involved, complicated and time-consuming than we had originally anticipated. We are beginning the implementation of payroll, and it appears that this portion of the system is even more complex. While changes have been made to improve the payroll implementation for Phase One, more time is needed to improve the entire implementation process for all future phases. It has been decided to delay the start of Phase Two in order for the software issues to be resolved, training materials created and finalized, and a greater understanding of the MUNIS system developed by the MAISD technology staff. Consequently, the training schedule will be realigned to allow for logical "go-live" dates.

Please know that this decision was not made easily, but it is agreed that it is the best decision for everyone involved. We are all dedicated to making this project a success.

We appreciate your continued understanding as we continue to implement this large and involved project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Rhonda Smith or Randy.