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PRISM Teacher of the Month

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Biography
I have run my high school English classes via PRISM for several years, and prior to that had used Moodle through my school's own server. This year, I have 160 seniors, all of whom write essays; grading an essay takes at least 10 minutes if I provide feedback, so a single assignment takes at least (breaking out the calculator) 26.7 hours for me to grade. Most of that grading occurs outside of the teacher work day; add in grading tests, journals, and other student work as well as planning, and you can see why any tool which lessens the time needed to complete scoring assessments is absolutely invaluable. PRISM makes my life SO much easier - it literally cuts grading time at least in half for essay grading, and reduces the rest of my grading time by at least 75 percent.

Writing Assignments
I absolutely love building my own rubrics and the quick yet detailed feedback I give students through those online rubrics - I click one box per row of the rubric, can add some notes in the small textbox provided, and then hit the SAVE button - that's all it takes to grade an essay. For quizzes and tests, I can grade a single essay-style question all the way through every student's quiz / test, making it more likely that I'm grading consistently. For short answer questions, I go to the response view of test results where I can scroll down the page, viewing one column which shows the answer each student gave to one question. If I see an answer marked wrong which should have been counted correct, I simply click on that answer, a small window pops up, and I can, right then and there, re-score that answer. In other LMS's, teachers have to go through each test, one at a time, to achieve the same effect, and I have yet to see another which can do with rubrics what PRISM does.

PRISM Teacher of the Month

Mastery Quizzes

Another use I make of PRISM is to set up grammar lessons in quiz form, though the lessons do not count as quizzes. I set the questions to allow students to try answers more than once - without penalty. They are also allowed to do the lessons as many times as they wish, with the highest score being the one which goes into the grade book. I do tell the kids not to go crazy over any one question since inserting one extra space some-where or being one letter off will result in a wrong answer. The effect has been that they are paying much closer attention to instructions and to the accuracy of their own typing. They have truly nailed down the rules regarding capitalization and punctuation, including commas, semicolons, colons, and quotation marks. Yes, you'd think they would already have mastered that knowledge, but the pre-assessment test score average was around 50; the recent after-completing-lessons test score average was just over 90%. This is my 43rd year of teaching high school English; using PRISM for individualizing instruction, especially for grammar instruction, has proven to be VERY effective, more so by far than any other method I've ever used.

Lesson Plans

One last way that PRISM has made my teaching both easier and more effective is the terrific lesson planning component. I will probably retire within the next 5-10 years. Having made a habit of creating at least two or three units each year via the tool available on PRISM has been great - first, from a single online location, I can share my work with teachers from all over the state, including handouts and other support materials; sec-ond, when I am evaluated each year, I present my evaluating administrator with the lesson plan(s) I created through PRISM, and the reaction has been excellent! My evaluators have praised the format, the inclusion of state standards, objective, activities, and all support materials.

Overall, what PRISM has done is to recognize the needs of teachers and to provide software, training, and support to remedy those needs. The time saved, the ease of use of the software, the communication with students made easy, the excellent support staff, the updating to the most recent version of Moodle every six months - just the "on it" attitude of those who have made PRISM available to teachers have all made using computers for education truly an excellent instrument of instruction.

Digital Resources

StudyBlue a Chegg Service

StudyBlue's mission is to provide the largest and smartest crowdsourced learning service for every student to successfully learn anything. Over 16 million students have used the website. There are over 500 million pieces of content on Study-Blue. StudyBlue is an excellent resource for students ranging from overachievers to struggling students and procrastinating students. The website encourages and promotes collaborative work. Students from all over the world working at different educational levels ranging from high school to college can effectively utilize this vast resource to be better prepared and perform better in class. Students can make flashcards online or import flashcards to the program. Students can work collaboratively in a course to build sets of flashcards to be used by all. This excellent resource for students can be found online at: https://www.studyblue.com

Bring Exploration to your Classroom

Explorer Classroom connects classrooms around the world with National Geographic Explorers, bringing science, exploration, and conservation to life through live video events. Students have the opportunity to ask the explorer their questions directly. Each month Explorer Classroom features a new theme and provides supporting resources for educators. Throughout the school year, classes can also join explorers live on expedition through our In the Field series. Educator's guides are available for each live video event. Prior to the scheduled time for the video event, teacher can go online and download the educator guide that goes with the event. Background information on the National Geographic Explorers are provided on the educator guides along with discussion questions and suggested activities and lessons to accompany the video.
To learn more about these superb resources for teaching and learning go to:
National Geographic Education: Explorer Classroom

TeachEngineering

Hands-on engineering curricula aligned to science, technology, engineering and math standards. A vast variety of curricular units, lessons, activities and maker challenges are available on the TeachEngineering website. Search by curricular units, lesson names, types of activities or by standards.

From soaring skyscrapers to tiny medical devices, it's impossible to imagine life without engineering. Engineering design is a vehicle for the integration of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) into K-12 settings, as well as an outlet for creative problem solving and design-thinking. Bottom line, engineering matters! A stem teacher can actively engage and improve student learning by using resources from TeachEngineering. Teachers can also introduce exciting career pathways to students and provide insight to many STEM careers.
To learn more about this website, go to: TeachEngineering

Professional Development & Other Opportunities

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Indiana STEM Conference 2019

The fourth-annual Indiana STEM Education Conference will be held at Purdue University on January 10, 2019. The Purdue University College of Education and Center for Advancing the Teaching and Learning of STEM (CATALYST), the Indiana Department of Education, and the Indiana Commission for Higher Education are proud sponsors of the conference. This event will be part of a two-part STEM event for Indiana in 2019 called the Indiana STEM Education Conference and Summer STEM Connection Summit. The dates for the Summit are June 12-14, 2019.

The goal of the January Indiana STEM Education Conference is to provide a platform for dissemination of best practice in K-12 STEM teaching and learning in Indiana. There will be three strands that organize the conference: K-12 STEM practice, STEM education research, and STEM resources.

Strand 1: K-12 STEM Practice will include selected presentations and workshops from individuals and teams from Indiana K-12 schools who are implementing STEM programs and school approaches. For example, sessions on problem and project-based pedagogy, engineering design process, integrated STEM curriculum development, strategic planning, the new Indiana science standards, or science education, mathematics education, and/or engineering education practices will be offered.

Strand 2: STEM Education Research will include invited presentations from leading STEM education researchers within Indiana who are examining pressing challenges in K-12 STEM education. For example, sessions on integrated STEM education, mathematics education, science education, engineering education, technology education, etc. will be offered.

Strand 3: STEM Resources will include many invited organizations and other community partners from across the state that have resources available to support STEM education. The focus will be for partners in this strand to connect with participants to help support the growth of STEM programs and focus within IN schools.

The daylong conference will be from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with lunch included in the registration fee. All participants will have multiple offerings to select from for each of the five sessions across the day. Participants can choose selections from any and all strands as well.

For more information: https://www.conf.purdue.edu/landing_pages/stem/
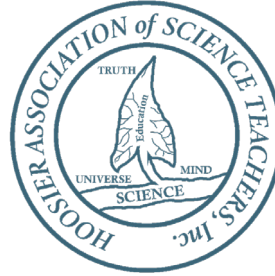
Professional Development & Other Opportunities

HASTI 2019 Conference
STEM: Science Teachers Engaging Students

Start: February 17, 2019
End: February 19, 2019
Location: Wyndham - Indianapolis West
http://www.hasti.org/

The 48th Annual HASTI Conference, STEM: Science Teachers Engaging Students, will be held February 17-19, 2019 at the Wyndham Indianapolis-West, Indianapolis.
The purpose of HASTI is the advancement, stimulation, extension, improvement and coordination of science education in all fields of science at all educational levels.
HASTI is a clearinghouse and provider of quality professional development for science educators, and serves as a voice for science education across the state. The association also promotes professional communication among science educators.

Good Teaching Conference

March 1 - 2, 2019
Noblesville Parks & Recreation Annex
300 N. 17th St
Noblesville, IN 46060

https://www.ista-in.org/our-profession/professional-resource-center/good-teaching-conference

ISTA offers unique, practical and valuable professional development opportunities for members and Hoosier educators. The Good Teaching Conference is one of ISTA's premier events. Conference materials and presentations from previous Good Teaching Conferences can be found on the edCommunities group, ISTA Good Teaching Conference. If you haven't yet signed up for edCommunities, visit mynea360.org to register. EdCommunities provides access to an online, national community of educators and professional groups to connect with your peers.

STEM Revolution Offers World-Class STEM Teacher Training

STEM Revolution teacher training workshops help teachers reach a desire level on his/her schedule. Workshops are designed specifically for teachers. Whether it be conducting workshops at a given school, providing 1:1 mentorship in-classrooms, or doing online training, STEM Revolution's process of training STEM teachers is customized to set groups of teachers, school districts or schools. STEM Revolution understands a school's need to address the curriculum, continuing education credits (CEU), and Standards.
One of the most important elements STEM Revolution brings to schools is the knowledge, experience, and proven process to engage teachers that are resistant of STEM. Often students are more tech savvy than their teachers it seems. Or perhaps the question is more along the lines of how a language arts teacher (for example) engages into the STEM world. STEM Revolution's award-winning teacher trainers have done that in different schools across the country.
STEM Revolution's workshops go deeper than just providing examples of projects. They help the teachers to understand what a STEM teacher really is. What a STEM school really is. What a STEM student really is. By understanding the underlying foundation, they enable teachers to understand the process, and empower them with project-based learning techniques

For more information: STEM Revolution

Moodle Google Integration

Moodle offers full integration with the Google G-Suite, which includes Drive for storage, Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms, and Sites.

Moodle integrates Google Drive access right from within the Moodle File Picker. To access:

• Add a file resource in your course.
• When inserting the file, look for "Google Drive" on the left side of the File Picker
• You will see a button to login to your Google Account, click that button.
• You will see a screen asking for permission to access your Google Drive documents. Select 'Allow Access'
• You should see all of your Google Drive files appear in the File Picker

For more information about Google Integration in Moodle:

https://docs.moodle.org/35/en/Google_Drive_repository

https://docs.moodle.org/35/en/Google_Apps_Integration

What PRISM Can Do For You!

• Easily find the perfect teaching and learning resources from our library of over 5,000.

• Save a list of your favorite resources for quick retrieval.

• Create and share lesson plans that teach your subjects utilizing your favorite resources.

• Develop online classrooms with interactive assignments, lessons, quizzes and more!

• Store your classroom materials online so that they are available to you from any computer.

• Reach your students more effectively by using web media for the digital age.

• Earn PGP points by completing PRISM led online Moodle course – either Beginning Moodle or Intermediate Moodle courses are available to you at no cost several times throughout the year.

• Select from free learning resources that emphasize visualization, rich context, staged-problem solving, and electronically enabled collaboration / communication.

• Augment your own dynamic presence in the classroom with teaching tools that mirror the skills needed for success in higher education and the 21st Century workplace.

*Through our strong support from the **Lilly Endowment** and others, we are constantly growing and improving. Check our site regularly to see what new resources you can use in your classroom.*

www.rose-prism.org

PRISM

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