Hans-On Technology

Websites

Google: did you know that you could find sites' reading levels when you do an advanced search with Google?

Click the advanced search button to the right of the search box, and then select your preference under "Need more tools?"

Google will display all reading levels, or only return results at the level you specify depending on your preference.

Slow Internet? Plug it in!

One of the things we hear about most often is that the Internet is slow. Although this could be caused by many factors, one of the easiest and most effective solutions is to always use an Ethernet cable for your teacher machine whenever possible.

This does a couple of things:
-Reduces the number of people using the wireless hubs, which speeds up the connection for everyone using that hub
-Gives you the fastest possible connection without the possibility of interference.

A number of factors influence the speed of the wireless connections, the biggest one being the number of people using a single hub. Think of the hub as a pizza; each person who decides to use that pizza makes everyone else get a smaller slice.

Larry will be experimenting with using more hubs to see if that resolves the problem in notoriously slow spots, but until then, your best bet is to make sure you are using a wired connection.

If you are still having a slow Internet experience, it may be due to other issues with your computer.

Tips

Reboot:
It is a good idea to shut your computer down at the end of each day, whether or not you are taking it home. Rebooting causes your system to reset, which often will fix or avoid problems with the machine. This is also a good idea when traveling to and from school. Your computer should not be left on when enclosed in any kind of bag or case.

Teacher Sites

As a busy parent, one of the best ways to find out what is going on in my children's classrooms is by going to the teachers' web pages. A teacher web page should list daily schedules, have contact information and preferences, and list some of the recent goings-on in the classroom. Pages should be updated regularly to maintain a good home-school connection.

If you are not currently utilizing this powerful resource, or if you have a page but need it to be linked to the school's home page, please let me know and I can help you get things rolling.

HELP!!!

I am currently looking for volunteers to serve on the "LoTi: Next Steps" committee. This group will look at data generated in the LoTi survey and help determine the steps we will take to reach the goals it outlines. I would like teachers on this committee from each of the main curricular areas and grade levels/schools. If you are interested and able to meet after school occasionally, please let me know as soon as possible.

Suggestions

Please email or call with any suggestions you have for this newsletter. The goal of this publication is to keep you informed about technology topics in USD #418, provide simple and quick tips and tricks, and hopefully you get something useful here or there.

Article:

17 Reasons Facebook is Right for Education
by: Kimberly, Simple K-12