



Tech & PD Update

April 27, 2015

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Professional Development Needs Assessment

Please take a few minutes to complete the [Technology & Professional Development Needs Assessment Survey](#). The survey will help us understand current comfort levels with various technology tools and gather feedback on what you would like to learn more about, tech-related or otherwise. You'll also have the opportunity to volunteer to present to or offer training for your colleagues if you wish.

This survey closes Friday. Results will be made public through the [Tech & PD website](#).

Your input is very important! Many thanks to all who have completed the survey so far!

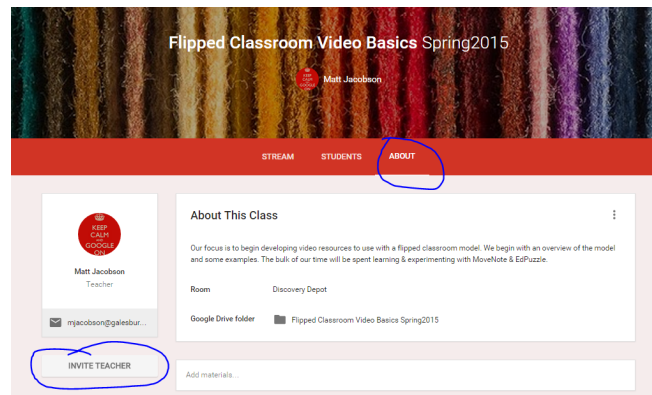
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Google Classroom: Co-Teachers & Draft Posts!

Believe it or not, Google really does read all those suggestions that people post! In an unexpected update Tuesday, Google Classroom began allowing two important and useful features.

Add a Co-Teacher: Now you can collaborate & share the online management of a class with a Co-Teacher or a colleague who is lending a hand. Here's how:

- Log in & open a class in Google Classroom
- Click **About**
- Click **Invite Teacher**



- Type in a few letters of the teacher's last name and click the magnifying glass to search
- Select the teacher & click **Next**
- On the confirmation screen, you'll see the phrase "Teachers you add can do everything you can, except delete the class."
- Click **Invite** and an email will be sent to allow your co-teacher to join in

Save an Announcement or Assignment as a DRAFT: It is now possible to create all of your Assignment & Announcement posts in advance, and then deploy them when you're ready! It's super-simple:

- Create an Announcement or Assignment as you normally would.
- Click the downward-facing triangle next to the blue **POST** button & choose **Save Draft**.
- You'll now see a box marked **DRAFT** with a number next to it, indicating the number of drafts you've saved, along with the first several words in the post. Click on the words to open it up, edit it, and post it.

For more information, read [this post by Richard Byrne of Free Tech For Teachers](#).

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Lion's Quest - 2 Locations

We have just been informed that the Lion's Quest training on May 19 will be split into 2 groups. Participants serving grades K-8 will meet in the Board Room at Lincoln Education Center. To avoid conflicts with GHS PARCC Testing, we are looking for an alternate location for participants serving grades 9-12. No agenda has been released at this time, nor have start/end time been revealed. Participants will be informed as soon as more information becomes available.

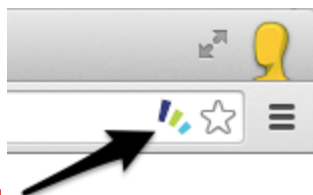
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Does Your Class Need a (Hapara) Tune-Up?

Recently several Hapara users (Grades 6-12) have reported not being able to "see" several students in a given class. With the recent update to the software - coupled with the large number of student devices in our secondary schools - there are bound to be a few issues.

If you have student devices that do not appear to be recognized or are "not connected" here are a few tips that might help out:

1. Restart the student device. Often times students do not shut down Chromebooks at all for weeks at a time. A restart is usually required for updates to take effect. This is always a quick way to cure a lot of problems.
2. Follow these steps from the [Hapara Interact Troubleshooting Guide](#):
 - Log into **Google** or **Chrome browser** under one of your **student's user accounts**, or just have the student log in and hand over the device, using the **same device** in the **same location** usually used by your student.
 - Browse to the URL <https://rc.hapara.com/diagnostics>
 - Open the diagnostics module by **clicking on the Hapara icon** displayed in the right-hand side of the address bar as shown below:



CLICK THIS ICON

- If this icon doesn't appear on the student device, make sure the Hapara Interact Extension is installed and enabled by following the instructions [HERE](#).
- Begin your tests by clicking the button '**Run Diagnostic Tests**' in your diagnostics pop-up window.
 - Once tests are complete, refer to the [Troubleshooting Guide, part 2: Interpreting the Results](#) for tips on correcting the issue.

As always, feel free to let me know if you'd like some assistance with this at any time.

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Learn 360 - It's Still Here!

[Learn 360](#) is an instructional video resource that District #205 has enjoyed for several years. (This service is similar to Discovery Streaming, which many have heard of elsewhere.) Discovery Streaming allows teachers to search for & download video resources from many popular sources, including PBS, BBC America, National Geographic, The History Channel, and many others!

Videos can be downloaded in .WMV format to play over teacher workstations/classroom projectors. Videos can also be streamed in MP4 format for use on mobile devices. However, for instructional purposes, downloading the video to your workstation and saving it will allow you to keep it for easy access in the future.

Our subscription to this service will continue into the next school year. (2015-2016) Contact Matt and make sure to include your name & building assignment to receive your passcode to access these curriculum support resources!

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Mentor Logs Due May 15

Currently Active Mentors should submit their logs to Angela James **no later than May 15** at 4PM. Please make sure you include the date, duration, and general topic of each regularly scheduled meeting with your protegee(s) as well as a total of all hours claimed on this log.

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Year 2 Teacher Logs Due May 15

Teachers completing their second year of employment with District #205 and/or KWSED should submit their logs of regular meetings with their Mentor as assigned to Angela James

no later than May 15 at 4PM. After review, logs will be returned with a letter noting successful completion of our state-approved Mentoring & Induction Plan.

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Math Curriculum Alignment Team Meets May 27

Our ongoing Curriculum Alignment Teams will meet one more time before school ends. Our goal will be to finalize our first draft of assessment questions that align with our existing curriculum maps. Now that our calendar has been approved we can move forward with these. Meetings are held in the Board Room at Lincoln Education Center from 8AM-3PM on the following dates.

- **Math Team: May 27**

PLEASE NOTE: Absolutely no decisions have been finalized regarding District-wide adoption of any assessment at this time.

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Free P.D. on Google, by Google

Google is holding a FREE “virtual conference” called [Google Education On Air](#). Google recently released a listing of session topics for this event, on **Friday-Saturday, May 8-9**. Participants can log in at any time to learn more about using Google Tools in schools. You can drop in or out at any time as your interests and other duties & activities require.

From [Google for Education](#)'s [James Leonard](#):

- **Day 1- Leading for the future:** Tune in from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET to hear speakers who will challenge us to innovate and improve education. In our kickoff session, panelists will tackle the question “What are the skills of the future?”. Keynote speakers include actor and Reading Rainbow host & producer LeVar Burton, Google Senior Vice President Laszlo Bock, Google Science Fair 2012 winner Brittany Wenger, and education expert and government reformer Sir Michael Barber. Finally, learn from panel discussions featuring educators who will provide lessons on “transforming learning with technology” and “empowering students.”
- **Day 2- Shaping the classroom today:** From 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. ET you can tune in for any of the 100+ sessions led by educators from 12 countries and 29 U.S. states. All

sessions have been designed to offer practical advice and examples. Find ones you like and add them to your calendar.

To register or learn more about sessions, [please visit the Google Education On Air website!](#)

(No, I'm afraid I can't offer Professional Development credit for this since there's no way for me to verify actual contact time. However, this is a great learning opportunity - you won't want to miss it!)

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Cyber Camp 2015

Carl Sandburg College will be hosting Cyber Camp again this year! This is a fantastic (and inexpensive) opportunity to learn about some nifty tools & tips to tech-up your classroom activities a bit!

This year's keynote speaker is Kathy Schrock, a globally-recognized leader in educational technology. Classroom teacher, instructional technologist, and technology director, she continues to blog and promote innovative technology use in education. Read [Kathy Schrock's Guide to Everything](#), [Kathy Schrock's Kaffeeklatch](#), and [Kathy's Katch on the Discovery Education Network](#).

Additionally, several of our District #205 colleagues will be presenting! D205 presenters include Jon Bradburn from Gale, Miranda Hedden & TC Michels from Lombard, and Amanda Stenger from GHS! (...and yours truly...)

Click here to view the [DRAFT Agenda](#). Registration is only \$75 for 2 days of hands-on training.

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Professional Development Update

For more activities, please visit [District #205's Professional Development Calendar](#)

April 28-May 1: PARCC PBA Testing, High School

April 28: Summer School Training, Board Room, 8AM-Noon

April 28: Flipped Classroom Video Help, Lombard Room 106B, 3-5 PM

April 30: Fountas & Pinnell Training, Board Room, 830-11AM

May 4-22: PARCC EOY Testing Window, Grades 3-8 - Schedules set by building administration

May 4-22: PARCC EOY Test Window for block schedules (GHS only) - Exact dates established by school

May 07: Implementing Student Growth with Anne Weerda (Part 2 of 2), East Moline, 9-2

May 08-09: Google's [Education On Air](#) virtual conference, Online

May 19: [Lion's Quest](#), K-8: Board Room; HS: TBA, All Day (Times TBA)

May 25: No School - Memorial Day

May 27: Math Curriculum Alignment Team, Board Room, 8-3

June 4: Last day of school for students

June 5: Institute Day

June 9: Student Growth & Learning Conference, Online, 9AM-2PM [Learn More or Register Here](#)

June 11: Raspberry Pi Workshop, Lombard Computer Lab, 8AM-3PM (For info or to register, call Bonnie Harris at 345-3832)

June 11-12: [Cyber Camp](#), Carl Sandburg College

July 29-31: [Leyden 1:1 Summer Symposium](#), East Leyden High School, Franklin Park, IL

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