

▶ Tips & tricks for using educational technologies...

▶ Links to sites that may help enhance classroom instruction...

▶ Videos to motivate, teach, or help lighten the mood...

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W.D. Tech NEWS

LET'S PUT EVERYTHING IN PERSPECTIVE

Work smarter... and laugh

It's the start of a new school year which brings a unique excitement that doesn't happen at any other time. As teachers, we are filled with hope, dreams, and goals. We, literally, think that we are going to be able to change the world.

Somewhere around the third to fifth week of school (if we're lucky) the realization of what our job consists of dawns on us. We start working longer hours and weekends, we seem to spend tons of time answering emails, and we're searching for positive comments.

So, let's all start working smarter. Using technologies **as a tool** to make your life easier should be a top consideration. Don't use technologies that will monopolize all of your time; use the tutorials and videos that are created for you so you don't have such a steep learning curve; ask for help when you

need it (this is not a sign of weakness); don't procrastinate (especially with Campus) since this will add stress to your life; let the students experiment with technologies since they usually learn the quickest through trial and error; and work collaboratively to develop lessons (GradeCam will provide an ideal sharing environment).

35 years of teaching has taught me a lot but one thing becomes more evident each year... none of us is our own island. We need each other to learn from and to help develop our abilities to become outstanding educators. We need to "lighten up" and enjoy what we do.

Try something new this year: Laugh. Laugh with your students. Laugh at yourself. Laugh and love what you do. Laugh when "you don't get it." You'll find yourself looking forward to each day. So will your students.



Editor: Jim Roberts * Western Dubuque Director of Instructional Technology and Student Reporting

Please submit your ideas and questions to Jim at james.roberts@wdbqschools.org.

SITE TO Checkout: READWRITETHINK

readwritethink

"Our mission is to provide educators, parents, and afterschool professionals with access to the highest quality practices in reading and language arts instruction by offering the very best in free materials."

"Engage your students in online literacy learning with these interactive tools that help them accomplish a variety of goals—from organizing their thoughts to learning about language—all while having fun." [readwritethink](http://readwritethink.org)



SITE TO Checkout: VIDEONOTES

"Use this for flipped classroom video assignments, having students take notes as they watch, and share the notes with the instructor to demonstrate completion of the assigned material."

"Allows students to view YouTube, Coursera, Khan Academy, Udacity, edX, and Vimeo videos and take notes as they watch. The notes are automatically synchronized with a position in the film, allowing them to jump back to that film position later. The video/notes file automatically saves to Google

Drive and can then be shared for viewing or collaborative note taking. Other features include playing the video at faster or slower speeds, inserting snapshots from the film in the notes, and incorporating more than one video into a note file. Grades 6-12."

<http://www.videonot.es/>

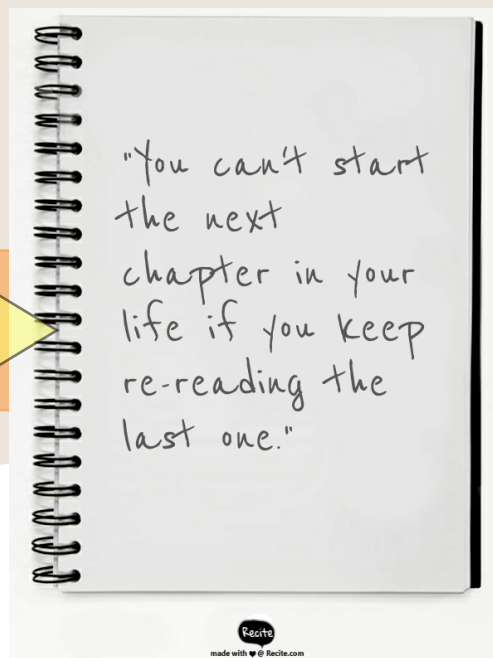
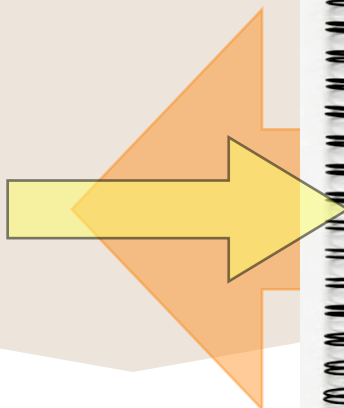


SITE TO Checkout: RECITE

"Before exams, or end of grade tests, have students create a stress wall, or a lift up your peer wall, have each student create quotes and post them through Recite to share with their peers as the year comes to a close."

"Recite is where you can go to 'Turn a Quote into a Masterpiece.' Pick a quote from literature, a movie, a mentor, teacher, or create of your own, choose a template, and voila, you have created a gorgeous quote with Recite This. A wonderful resource for bulletin boards, classroom walls, door decorating contests, Power Point and other online based presentation tools. Grades K-12."

<http://recite.com/>



Productivity:

Microsoft Word
Tips & Tricks



- To select an entire paragraph make three rapid clicks anywhere in the paragraph.
- To create a horizontal line, type 3 hyphens and then press Enter.
- To move the cursor to the location where it was when you last saved the document, press Shift + F5.
- Select some text in Word and press *Shift+F3* to quickly change the case of the selection. It toggles between UPPERCASE, lowercase and Camel Case (first letter in capital) and should come handy if you have accidentally left the CAPS LOCK key on while typing.



App: POCKET (iPad)

"Over 12 million people use Pocket to easily save articles, videos and more for later. With Pocket, all of your content goes to one place, so you can view it anytime, on any device. You don't even need an Internet connection."

"Pocket makes it easy to capture and store articles for later reading—you can even read articles offline. There's a lot to read on the Web, and with Pocket you know you'll always be able to, well, read it later. Pocket makes the iPad reading experience even better."

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pocket-save-articles-videos/id309601447?mt=8>



Inspirational Video: A PEP TALK FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS



<https://youtu.be/RwlhUcSGqgs>

Productivity:

Microsoft Excel Tips & Tricks

- To add multiple rows or columns in a spreadsheet, highlight the same number of preexisting rows or columns that you want to add. Then, right-click and select "Insert."
- To remove duplicates, highlight the row or column that you want to remove duplicates from. Then, go to the Data tab and select "Remove Duplicates" (under Tools). A pop-up will appear to confirm which data you want to work with. Select "Remove Duplicates."
- To create a chart, enter data into Excel with column headers then select *Insert > Chart > Chart Type*. Excel 2013 includes a *Recommended Charts* section with layouts based on the type of data you're working with. Once the generic version of a chart is created, go to the *Chart Tools* menus to customize it.
- Control-Home = Navigates to cell A1
- Control-End = Navigates to the last cell that contains data

Content about sites/apps is the property of the recognized website owners and is used for educational purposes only and no monetary gain.

THANKS, EVERYBODY!!!

WE'RE GLOBAL & POPULAR



Thank you to ALL of you who have helped make the instructional technology information I share with you throughout the year successful. I use *Smore* as my primary sharing publication because it is simple, attractive, and reliable.

Smore provides "incentives" in the form of badges for certain milestones that are made through your *Smore* account. Once you hit one of *Smore's* criteria, you are awarded a badge. In less than two school years we have earned the above badges. I don't count the Educator badge since all that was needed for this was to upgrade my account. That was easy and didn't rely on hits in the *Smore* account.

One thing to keep in mind is that a repeat hit from a computer or device is only counted one time per flyer. That helps make all of this super awesome! We have steadily been increasing the hits on our *Smore* account and are over 10,000 hits. That's some pretty serious education taking place, folks!

Oh, yeah... did you notice the *Globetrotter* badge? 10 different countries visit our *Smore* account. We have people learning from little old us at Western Dubuque from Canada, China, New Zealand, Japan, France, Germany, Mexico, Great Britain, Russia, and Norway as well as all over the United States. C'mon and admit it... that's pretty cool.

Keep sending me your ideas for the *W.D. Tech News* newsletter and the *Tech Tips 2Day* publication since those are the largest traffic *Smore* accounts. We aren't only educating each other and our students, we're educating others across the world.