Newsletter

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Upcoming 2015 Moodle Training Courses

We are offering three FREE online Moodle training courses beginning in September. We offer Professional Growth Plan (PGP) points for each course.

Basic Moodle for Teachers (10 PGP Points)
September 15 - October 13

A basic introduction to Moodle 2.9. You will learn how to build a classroom course and populate it with files, assignments and quizzes.

Intermediate Moodle for Teachers (10 PGP Points)
September 16 - October 14

A continuation from the Basic Moodle for Teachers course. Choose this course if you already have Moodle experience and would like to learn how to use some of the more advanced features like wikis, databases, lessons, and RSS feeds.

Advanced Moodle for Teachers (10 PGP Points)
September 17 - October 15

A continuation from the Intermediate Moodle for Teachers course. This course will take the Intermediate level course a step further as participants learn advanced gradebook features, groups and groupings, conditional activities, and the workshop activity module.

All of the courses are completed online at your-own-pace during your own free time.

If you would like to register for a course, please visit the PRISM website, log-in, and click the 'Event Registration' link. Use the drop-down menu to select the appropriate course and click the 'Registration Form' button. You will see a complete description of the course. To sign up, scroll down and enter your information. You should receive a confirmation email. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please contact us.

PRISM in the Classroom

Starting this Fall PRISM teacher liaison, Bob Jackson, will be an embedded teacher in the middle school classrooms in the Vigo County Schools. Bob will be providing professional development to the middle school science teachers and modeling science lessons with reading and writing components in each lesson. This is a follow on to the professional development that took place with the science and math teachers in the three week Vigo County Schools Summer Intensive Institute that took place in June of this year. The work is funded by a Math/Science Partnership Grant between Vigo County Schools and Rose-Hulman PRISM. Bob will be in the middle schools throughout the 2015-16 school year.

Comprehensive lessons have been developed for 6th, 7th and 8th grade science and will be modeled in teachers' classrooms. Each lesson includes: a reading exercise, a PowerPoint Presentation, video clips and simulations, a writing exercise using writing prompts similar to State assessments and an online quiz.

Lessons have been developed across each grade level in all the major content areas: Science Investigations, Physical Science (Properties of Matter), Earth Science and Life Sciences appropriate to each grade level. Two class periods will be utilized for each modeling of a lesson. The lessons are all stored on the PRISM Moodle platform and made available to the participating teachers to use indefinitely. Each teacher is able to sign up for one lesson to be modeled in his/her classroom. A teacher can pick one of the four content area lessons appropriate to grade level to have Bob model in his/her classroom. Lessons will be scheduled from September through April.

Bob will also be working with Vigo County Schools' media specialists at each of the elementary schools in Vigo County. The focus of this work will be to build science lessons on the PRISM Moodle platform that will be made available to students and teachers at each of the elementary schools.

Can online tutors make anytime, anywhere learning a reality?
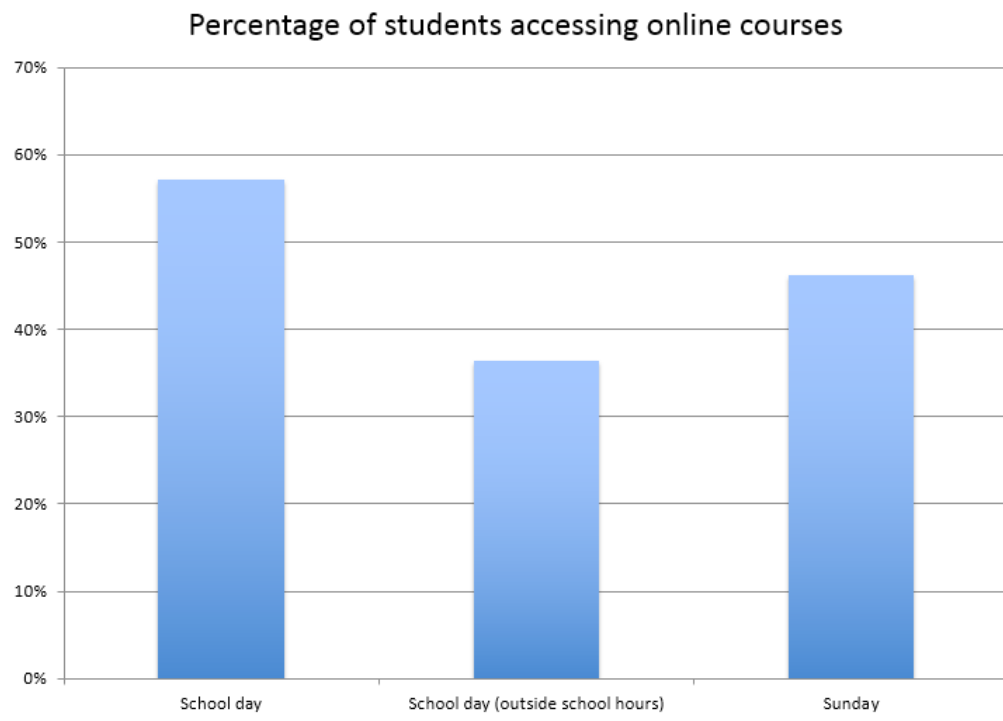
By Peter West, eSchool News

Supporting off hours learning is a problem you might not even know you have

Recently, I began dubbing the current generation of students the "Netflix Generation." They learn when they want, and expect learning resources to be available when and where they need them.

This is similar to the way they consume media through streaming services such as Netflix (for movies and television series) and Spotify (for music); they binge watch TV series multiple episodes in a row, and they expect a wide range of music to be available when and where they want. If they listen to a song in the car, they expect to be able to pick it back up in the house or while walking down the street. Increasingly, they expect learning resources to be available in the same fashion.

Smart educational organizations have built rich online courses filled with learning resources to support this type of learning. The old paradigm where learning occurs only in a classroom or lecture hall during school hours is gone. But in off hours, when teachers are at home, what will take their place?

After a few years of building online courses with rich learning resources, my school now sees significant student use outside the traditional school hours.

Percentage of students accessing online courses

Graph 1 – This graph shows the percentage of the Year 7 to 12 population that accessed the online learning environment. The graph showing the school day is an average figure derived from two weeks of data. The Sunday and outside school hours data is derived from recent individual days.
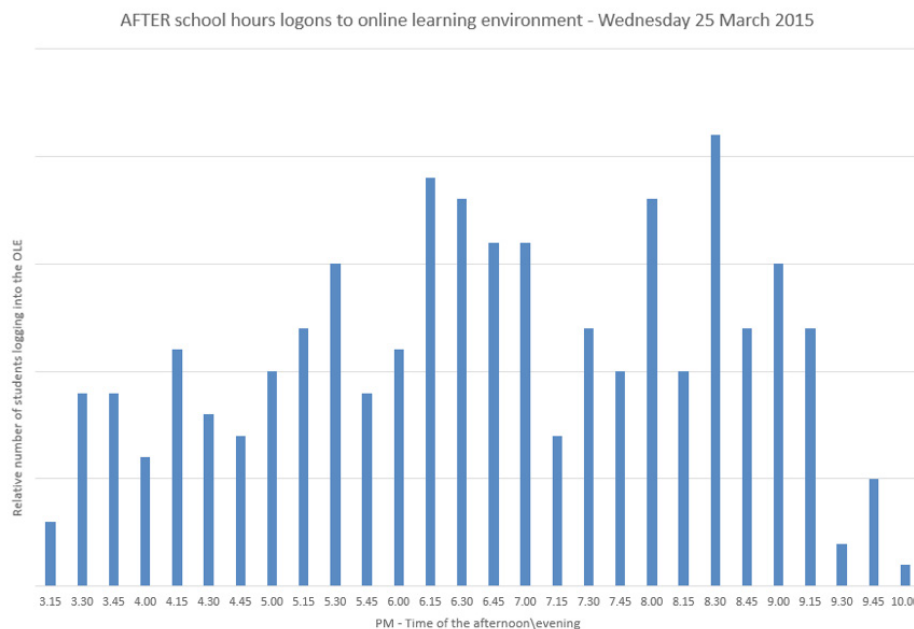
Can online tutors make anytime, anywhere learning a reality?
continued...

Anytime, anywhere teaching

However, this now produces other pressures. Learning outside of traditional school hours does not remove the need for teachers. If all that students needed in order to learn was information, schools would have closed once Google and high-speed broadband arrived on the scene. Students continue to need support, a human explanation, encouragement to work through a problem, and insight to take them through a mental barrier to get to the next stage of problem solving.

Yet if significant learning is happening outside traditional school hours, who is available to support it? Do we expect our teachers to be online and available at all hours of the day or night? Or do we expect our students to continue independently, even when they encounter difficulties? The ad hoc network of peers that some students have may not be able to provide the rapid, deep, expert insights that are needed.

AFTER school hours logons to online learning environment - Wednesday 25 March 2015

Graph 2 – Student logons to the OLE after school. (Classes finish at 3:15pm). This is a snapshot of the number of students logging in to the system at a particular time. It is not the total number of students using the OLE at that time.

Read more online at: http://www.eschoolnews.com/2015/08/11/online-tutors-328/

Professional Development Opportunities

AP-TIP IN Fall Conference 2015

Friday, September 18, 2015
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. for grant teachers
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. for non-grant teachers

The 2015 Fall Conference held in Indianapolis, Indiana at the Lawrence Education and Community Center, 6501 Sunnyside Boulevard, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Registration:
If you would like to attend, register here. For those teachers outside of the AP-TIP IN grant, registration is limited and will close once the available seats have been filled. Registration will close on August 28, 2015.

The Fall Conference is open to all AP-TIP IN Grant Schools (see list below) and to teachers who teach AP courses at non-grant high schools. Experienced in teaching AP courses? Inexperienced in teaching AP courses? Either way, you are welcomed and encouraged to attend!

Participants will engage in topics from the following AP courses:
• English: Language, Literature
• Math: Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Computer Science, Statistics
• Science: Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics 1, Physics 2

Specific topics may include but are not limitied to the following:
Grading Practices, Soft-landing Strategies, Best Practices, Laboratory Activities, Reading Analyses, Graphing Calculators, Technology Integration
The agenda for the Fall Conference will be posted soon -- check back often.

Cost:

If you are a member of an AP-TIP IN grant school, the grant will support the cost of attendance and will reimburse mileage from your home to the Lawrence Educaiton Community Center. If your driving distance is more than an hour; the grant will also support an overnight (Thursday) double-occupancy stay at a local hotel which AP-TIP IN will book for you.

If you are not a member of an AP-TIP IN grant school, the Early Bird registration cost is $149 per participant. You will need to register by 4:00 p.m. on August 1, 2015 to qualify for the discount. After August 1, the cost is $199 per participant.

On Friday, September 18, snacks and lunch (pizza) will be provided.

Upcoming Events

2016 Proposal Submissions | 45th Annual HASTI Conference

The 45th Annual HASTI Conference, Racing Into Science Literacy, will be held February 3-5, 2016 at the Indiana Convention Center in downtown Indianapolis. The HASTI Conference provides you with an opportunity to present your ideas to Indiana science teachers, administrators, future educators, and anyone with an interest in improving science education in Indiana. Presenters play a huge role in the success of this event, and we hope you will be able to join us!

PROGRAM ACCEPTANCE
Acceptance notifications will be sent to the primary presenter via email.

• Email confirmations will be received from <u>Laura Jackson</u>. Please take a few moments to ensure this address is added to your 'safe senders' list to ensure you receive all correspondence.
• All correspondence regarding acceptance and assigned presentation date & time will be sent no later than November 30, 2015.

We very much look forward to receiving your proposals and we thank you in advance for having the interest and taking the time to submit your program!

If you have questions or any problems accessing the form, please contact <u>Laura Jackson</u>, Conference Planner.

What PRISM Can Do For You!

• Easily find the perfect teaching and learning resources from our library of over 4,000.

• 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

www.rose-prism.org

PRISM is a free website that provides collections of online resources for Indiana educators in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The primary collection of digital teaching materials is indexed according to the Indiana Academic Standards for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade and secondary education courses.