PRISM Employment Opportunity

Interactive Web Applications Programmer for PRISM

Responsibilities: Works as part of PRISM, a web resource center for 6th-12th grade school teachers of science, mathematics, and technology interested in integrating web-based materials into their curricula; works within a team of four to design, implement and maintain this web-delivered portal; PRISM features a database of resources and free access to Moodle (a learning management system).

Qualifications: Associate's or Bachelor's degree in appropriate technical discipline preferred; minimum of two years' experience preferred, will consider extensive record of success in lieu of degree. Strong programming skills in database, information sharing, and interactive websites; experience with PHP, JavaScript, CSS, and HTML required, as well as experience in Object Oriented and Procedural approaches to coding; knowledge of AJAX, MySQL (or similar complex database software), and jQuery a plus; ability to assist with image work using Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign also desirable; excellent communication skills (written and spoken); ability to work with the user-community; some knowledge of digital technologies in the classroom; and willingness to learn as the position progresses.

Salary: Commensurate with experience and qualifications; excellent benefits package offered for this full-time position.

Applications: Only online applications/resumes will be accepted at: https://jobs.rose-hulman.edu until position is filled. Contact Human Resources at 812-877-8176 for questions. EEO/AA

20 Things You Can Do With Google Classroom

by: Alice Keeler
Teacher Tech

Google Classroom (https://www.google.com/edu/classroom/) is available to schools with a Google Apps for Education (GAFE) domain. Classroom is a way to get all of your students in one place and allows you to easily assign work and for students to turn it in.

1. **Sharing Resources**: Google Classroom allows you to take a document, video or link and push it out to your students.
2. **Create a Lesson**: More than simply assigning work to students, Google Classroom allows you to build an assignment. Include a description and attach multiple documents, links and videos. This puts the entire lesson in one place.
3. **Make Class Announcements**: Google Classroom gives you a place to post your announcements. Unlike a website with one way communication, students can comment back on the announcement.
4. **Go Paperless**: Using Google Docs you no longer need to collect and pass out paper. You can assign students a blank Google Doc or use a template that your students will fill out. Google Classroom creates a copy for each student and gives them a turn in button for when they are done.
5. **Simplify the Turn In Process**: When using Google Documents, notoriously students forget to change the sharing settings or to turn in their work. Google Classroom eliminates this issue by placing the document in the teacher and the students Google Drive immediately. Students simply need to "turn in" within Google Classroom to signal the teacher they are ready to have their work assessed.
6. **Protect Privacy**: Rather than creating a global folder shared with all of the students in the class, Google Classroom restricts access to the documents to the teacher and the individual student.
7. **Reduce Cheating**: Since the entire class documents are not in a shared folder the temptation to copy another students work is eliminated.
8. **Classroom Collaboration**: When sharing a document the teacher is able to choose if the students can view the document or can edit it. Creating a document and giving all the students in the class editing access to that same document allows every student to contribute their piece to a class project.
9. **Create a Discussion**: A spreadsheet can be utilized to collect student opinions on a discussion topic. The ability to have multiple tabs allows for multiple discussion questions. Sharing a single Google spreadsheet with student editing access gets everyone on the same page quickly and gives every student a voice in the discussion.
10. **Organize Assignments with Due Dates**: In creating an assignment in Google Classroom you are able to assign a due date that is clear for both you and the students.

Read more online at:

http://www.alicekeeler.com/teachertech/2014/09/07/20-things-you-can-do-with-google-classroom/

8 Simple Tools for Creating Engaging Infographics

by Kelly Maher
eSchoolNews

Kelly Maher, a mathematics and technology teacher and technology coordinator, shares several infographics generators to help illustrate complex information graphics, also known as infographics, provide a way to express complex data, ideas, or other information graphically.

Human beings are visual and adept at identifying patterns and trends quickly. Therefore, infographics often aid our understanding of otherwise dense, multifaceted, or complicated material.

Anyone can use infographics to further their understanding of a topic, and you can also create your own for use in teaching or presentations. Here are some infographics generators to consider the next time you need to teach a difficult concept or illustrate intricate information.

Infogr.am is extremely quick and easy to use, making it almost impossible to make an unattractive product. However, control is limited.

Easel.ly is very versatile, and the user has a great deal of autonomy. However, it is somewhat more time consuming, and the user is responsible for making sure that elements are designed and laid out well.

PiktoChart is my new favorite infographics generator. It's simple and allows any user to create a beautiful product.

Canva allows users to design infographics as well as a plethora of other print and digital content. What sets this tool apart from the others is the Design Tutorials section.

These tools are also worth checking out, if you are willing to pay for their use:

Creatly
Visual.ly
InfoActive
ManyEyes

Read more online at: http://www.eschoolnews.com/2014/09/08/tools-engaging-infographics-298/

Project-based Learning Moves into Classrooms

by Laura Devaney

eSchool News

Project-based learning is gaining support in education circles.

When it comes to classrooms today, students want more than the lectures and quiet classrooms of the past. They want technology to use as learning tools, they want to collaborate, and they want to work on projects that are relevant to their learning and the real world.

Through project-based learning (PBL), students achieve a deeper understanding of lessons as they investigate and attempt to solve real-world problems. Part of this approach's appeal is its ability to impact students of all ages—kindergarten students can collaborate on and explore problems just the same as high school students.

Educators across the country are integrating PBL into their classrooms.

"It's about getting away from the 'perfect experiment,'" said Gary Garber, a physics instructor at Boston University Academy. Garber also oversees the school's science and engineering lab interns at Boston University, and is head coach of the robotics team.

What's going on? Too often they wonder: 'Are my results right? Did I get the right answer?' [PBL] is about getting away from that to thinking about what the answer means," he said.

Garber uses Vernier Software & Technology products during experiments and lessons with his classes, but he goes well beyond simply putting equipment on each student's desk or lab table. Instead, he distributes different equipment to students so that experiments can't be done in the same way. Students use the equipment, including sensors and probes, to explore real-world challenges and come up with potential solutions to those problems.

"I force variety—I want them to approach the topic or problem from different points of view. Why are some results different from others?" he said.

Read more online at:

http://www.eschoolnews.com/2014/09/15/project-based-learning-932/2/

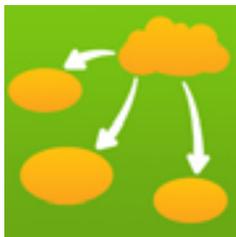# 5 Study Aid Apps for Middle and High School Common Core

by Graphite at Common Sense Media

Common Sense Media's service Graphite, which offers independent ratings and reviews of learning apps and websites, has compiled this list of apps that can help middle and high school students study for subjects that are aligned with the Common Core. For complete reviews, and for each app's "Learning Rating," visit the Graphite website.

Brainscape
Grades: 5-12
Price: Free
Concepts: Goal-setting, self-assessment

Using Brainscape, teachers can create digital flashcards — filled with images, audio or text — that encourage students to move beyond rote memorization and think critically about what they're learning. As students flip through cards, they can tap a color to indicate how well they know the information shown. The app tracks colors and recalls the card subjects that students need to work on to develop further understanding. Read the full Graphite review.

Inspiration Maps
Grades: 5-12
Price: Free to try; paid version is $9.99
Concepts: Forming arguments, using supporting evidence

Inspiration Maps is an easy-to-use mind-mapping tool. Using touch-screen gestures, students can create a text outline and convert it to a diagram, or start with a visual mind map and convert it to a text outline. The app comes with dozens of templates to get kids started organizing ideas for writing assignments, planning speeches or essays or thinking through group projects. Teachers can project the map on a screen or interactive whiteboard for class brainstorming sessions. Read the full Graphite review.

Notability
Grades: 6-12
Price: $2.99
Concepts: Brainstorming, self-direction, group projects

If you're a visual or audio learner, note-taking comes alive with Notability. Pen and paper aside, students can create engaging references by taking snapshots of charts/graphs, drawing, recording audio, adding content captured from websites, typing or cutting and pasting. Notability is a great tool for brainstorming ideas and for collaborative group projects. Read the full Graphite review.

5 Study Aid Apps for Middle and High School Common Core
Continued

iMathematics Pro
Grades: 7-12
Price: $2.99 to $4.84
Concepts: Equations, functions, memorization

iMathematics Pro is a useful reference tool covering a wide range of math topics. Students can find examples on topics such as prime numbers, fractions or algebra, and take quizzes to assess what they've learned. For teachers, the app functions as a useful supplement to math lessons and for interactive small group work. Read the full Graphite review.

WordFlex Touch Dictionary
Grades: 7-12
Price: $11.99
Concepts: Vocabulary, literacy, knowledge gain

Type in a word and multiple nodes appear, forming tree-like branches that plot definitions, pronunciations, synonyms, antonyms and more. An interactive touch feature enables users to explore, expand each node and move the branches to create a visual linguistic poster. With WordFlex Touch Dictionary, kids discover word origins and meanings — and possibly inspiration to sign up for the next spelling bee.

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