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Teacher Spotlight



The PRISM team selected Brian Hartman, chemistry teacher, from Evansville North High School as our spotlight teacher of the month. Brian finds it hard to believe, but he has been teaching for 24 years. He spent some time in Wisconsin and a year in the Czech Republic teaching, but the rest of his career has been in the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation. He has taught all of the physical sciences classes that exist ranging from the “old” Physical Science class to AP Chemistry and everything in between. He is also a Project Lead the Way Engineering instructor.

Brian started using the Moodle LMS hosted by Rose-Hulman PRISM in 2007. He was looking for a way to host class materials online. In the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation, many learning management systems have come and gone; however, Brian still uses and loves the Moodle LMS provided by Rose-Hulman PRISM! Brian has tried to encourage his school corporation to switch to Moodle as a district-wide platform.



Brian started his experience with the three distance education online Moodle training classes offered by the PRISM team. Brian states: “These courses really helped me set my ideas about what I wanted to do and how I wanted to use this tool. I have primarily setup my courses to help disseminate information as our corporation went 1:1 several years ago. At the same time, we reduced the use of textbooks, so a digital platform was a necessity.”

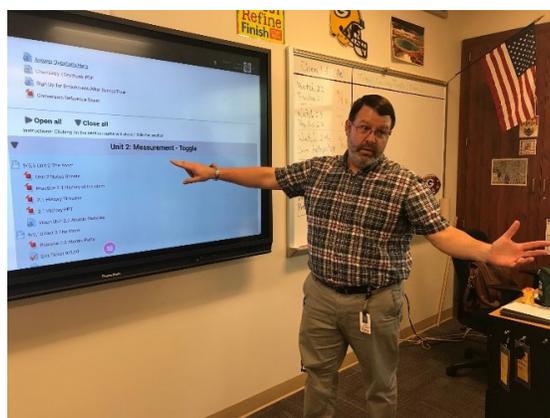
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Teacher Spotlight

Brian goes on to state: “The Moodle interface is very clean and easy to navigate and can be set with the majority of things on one page. The depth of possibilities is vast and I do not make use of everything. I have not found anything as easy to use for me and for my students.”

Brian organizes his courses by unit sections and then he has daily pages. On the daily pages, he briefly lists the activities for that day. Brian feels that Rose-Hulman PRISM’s Moodle LMS provides his students and himself a “one-stop shop” that they each can turn to for the daily activities. Brian states: “Using the Moodle LMS is very helpful for absent students as I always point them to the website when they invariably ask ‘what did I miss?’ “.

One of the main reasons Brian utilizes the Moodle LMS is for assessments rather than it being a platform just for documents and assignments. Brian uses the quiz function to deliver unit tests, smaller quizzes, and even exit tickets and surveys. Brian states: “Very diverse types of questions are extremely easy to create in Moodle as well as easy uploading of previously made sets from Exam View or other LMS questions. Users have control over many control features such as feedback or progressive questioning leading and guiding students to areas of strengths and weaknesses. As I said before, I do not use many of the great features available, but the Moodle system has really enhanced my classroom and the students experiences. All of the features combined with a wonderful staff who are always willing to help and quick to respond, no other LMS can compete.”



Brian is doing a great job in the science department at Evansville North. He has been a leader in the Evansville schools with utilizing the Moodle LMS hosted by Rose-Hulman PRISM.

Resources for Teachers



Freckle by Renaissance has a mission to ensure that all students receive a world-class education by utilizing their resources. The educational leaders at Freckle realize that every K-12 classroom has students that are actually at many different levels of reading comprehension, math abilities and academic abilities specific to subject content areas. Most teachers have a textbook or other resource, that predominantly teach to one level. Master teachers work hard to develop their own materials to “fit” their students and differentiate their instruction the best that they can with the resources they have in place. Freckle provides teacher with a differentiation platform. Every classroom is made up of unique students who are all at different levels. Freckle’s differentiation platform makes it easy for teachers to reach each student at their own individual level.

An overview of the Freckle differentiation platform can be viewed here: [Freckle Differentiation Platform](#).

For more information on the website visit: [Freckle by Renaissance](#).

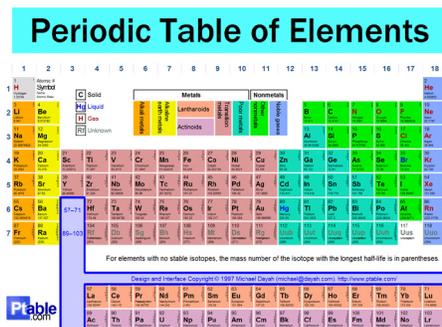


Prodigy is an interactive math game where success depends on answering skills-building math questions. Players earn rewards, go on quests and can play with friends and other students if it is utilized within a class. All math content is tailored to every player’s strengths, as well as, weaknesses. Math exercises / games are aligned with common state standards. When setting up math skills for games, the user can select their relevant state standards and games / skills will be aligned with them. Over 900 curriculum-aligned math skills adapt as students play. Prodigy is a great resource for students, teachers and parents. The app is free to all. Versions are available for iOS and Android.

For more information go to: [Prodigy](#).

Resources for Teachers

Periodic Table of Elements



For elements with no stable isotopes, the mass number of the isotope with the longest half-life is in parentheses.

Design and Interface Copyright © 1997 Michael Deane (michael@p-table.com) <http://www.p-table.com>

PTable.com has a highly interactive Periodic Table to contains a tremendous amount of information on each of the chemical elements. This Periodic Table is linked with a multitude of databases containing information about each of the chemical elements and common compounds formed by each. Data is acquired from primary sources and curated libraries such as [Wolfram Alpha](#). The Periodic Table has a state of matter slider. As it is moved, it can be seen what state of matter each element is expected to be in at given temperatures. Complete electron orbital designations can be show for each chemical element. When the tab is clicked for representing orbitals, as a student hovers over an element on the Periodic Table, the electron configuration for that element is shown following Hund's Rule. A 3D depiction of the orbitals is shown with the configurations.

PTable.com is an excellent resource for all chemistry students and teachers.

To see an overview of PTable.com go to: [PTable.com Demo](#)

For more information and to view the interactive Periodic Table go to: [PTable.com](#)



Scratch is a programming language and an online community where young adults can learn to program and share interactive media including stories, games and animations. The Lifelong Kindergarten group at the MIT Media Lab has developed and designed the Scratch website. Students can effectively learn mathematical and computational skills that are inherently built into Scratch programming. As students work on projects on Scratch, they can also learn about design process. Typically, a student will start with an idea, create a working prototype, experiment with it, and debug it when things go wrong, get feedback from others, then revise and redesign it. Overall, students can develop their creativity, communication and collaboration skills and learn to think systematically.

For more information go to: [Scratch](#)

Professional Development Opportunities

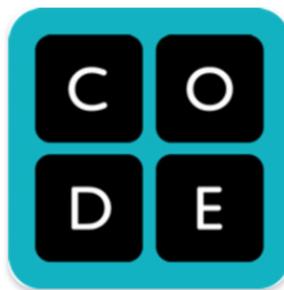


PBS TeacherLine is a provider of online professional development for K-12 educators. They offer more than 80 graduate level facilitated, online courses. Most are self-paced courses and can be completed on a flexible schedule. The courses available span the K-12 curriculum: Reading and Language Arts, Mathematics, Instructional Technology, Instructional Strategies, Science and the Social Studies and History.

As the premier provider of high quality online professional development, PBS TeacherLine has been recognized for its excellence by organizations such as the United States Distance Learning Association, National Educational Association, and the Software and Information Industry Association.

PBS TeacherLine offers courses that can inspire, educate and reinvigorate teachers. Courses are offered as 15, 30 or 45 hour courses. Content area experts and master teachers facilitate courses. Most of these facilitators will develop collaborative learning environments linking teachers to each other during a course or program of study.

For more information go to: [PBS Teacherline](https://www.pbs.org/teacherline/).



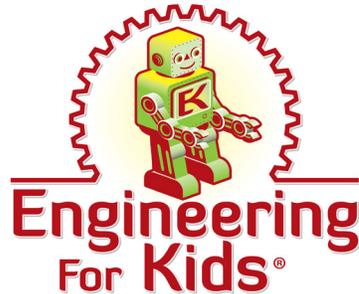
Code.org

Learn computer science. You can create an account at [Code.org](https://www.code.org/)® and begin taking free online courses. Courses for grades K-5, grades 6-12 and beyond K-12.

Code.org® is a nonprofit dedicated to expanding access to computer science in schools and increasing participation by women and underrepresented minorities. Their vision is that every student in every school has the opportunity to learn computer science, just like biology, chemistry or algebra. Code.org® provides the leading curriculum for K-12 computer science in the largest school districts in the United States. They also organize the annual Hour of Code campaign which has engaged 15% of all students in the world. Generous donors that support Code.org® include Amazon, Facebook, Google, the Infosys Foundation, Microsoft, and many more.

For more information, go to: studio.code.org/courses.

Engineering for Kids® of Indianapolis



Engineering for Kids® of Indianapolis brings the wonder and excitement of STEM education to children 4-14 through a variety of hands-on learning experiences. The Engineering for Kids® educational leaders have an “out of the book” approach to learning. They have students interacting with real world applications and learning more about things that they are already familiar with in their lives. Activities have included creating video games, designing hot air balloons, building rockets, roller coasters and robots. Engineering for Kids® programs and classes are meant to supplement and complement conventional classroom learning. The fun of science is brought to kids through camps, after-school activities, parties and classes. Engineering for Kids sets itself apart by encouraging children to engage with a diverse curriculum and by integrating the Engineering Design Process into every lesson, activity and camp.

For more information go to: [Engineering for Kids® of Indianapolis](http://www.engineeringforkids.org).

What PRISM Can Do For You!

- Easily find the perfect teaching and learning resources from our library of over 5,000.
- Store your classroom materials online so that they are available to you from any computer.
- Select from free learning resources that emphasize visualization, rich context, staged-problem solving, and electronically enabled collaboration / communication.
- Save a list of your favorite resources for quick retrieval.
- Reach your students more effectively by using web media for the digital age.
- 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.
- Create and share lesson plans that teach your subjects utilizing your favorite resources.
- 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.

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