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Steve Plasse started his teaching career in his home state of Alaska in 1997 at Angoon High School (Eagles) in the Tlingit village of Angoon on Admiralty Island. Teaching at a high school of forty students meant a different prep for each period: 4 grade levels of English, U.S. History, Guitar, Woodworking, and Career/College Prep. Highlights included a senior class trip to Hawaii, starting a recycling center, helping resurrect a pep band, and carving two large totem poles with Tlingit carver, Ray Peck.

In 2002, Steve and his Hoosier bride moved to Little York, Indiana and finished a cabin on her family's farm. Steve started teaching at Austin High School full time as the English 9 teacher in the fall of 2003. It was his second stint with AHS Eagles just 3,500 miles apart! Steve has sponsored a few senior classes, went on a few senior trips, and has thoroughly enjoyed collaborating with the students and his present principal. Together they created an original play entitled Flick City. This was with the class of 2011.

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## Teacher Spotlight

In 2007, the state's one-to-one computer initiative brought 30 computers into Steve's classroom and provided for training in some strange website that rhymed with the breed of his childhood dog Max. This began Steve's long tenure using PRISM's Moodle LMS.

Steve admits building his Moodle site--and rebuilding the site after the district's server crashed in 2007--was time consuming up front, but in the long run the site created a very valuable asset to my teaching. Steve says he can direct students to a wealth of resources, enrichment, contests, and topic or skill-connected content on the interwebs.

By creating and tweaking weekly vocabulary quizzes, unit tests, and quarter and semester finals, all on the Moodle LMS, he can have confidence that the question banks are on target, fair, and hopefully secured to prevent cheating. The LMS can randomize question order, answer order, and instantly score each attempt - all paperless. No more scantrons, no more stolen/shared tests, no more capricious, useless textbook assessments, no more hours of grading objective assessments. Plus, Steve can include all kinds of texts and a variety of challenging higher-order question formats.

As a bicycle commuter, organic gardener, cell-phoneless, luddite, he would be the last person one would expect to find encouraging his comrades to use a technological tool such as Moodle. Steve suggests two final benefits:

- First, if your district is pushing the use of digital tools in the classroom, you can be confident that Moodle is not building profiles on your students in order to monetize the information like he suspects Google is. Steve cannot not in good conscience use Google Classroom in his teaching.
- Second, the use of forums in his classes is one of the most effective ways he has seen to build a true community of learners. Once his students write personal narratives, he invites them to share their stories on a forum open to only their classmates. He gives them strict rules for posting comments and has them give oral shout-outs to fellow writers, even have them vote on who gave the most insightful comments. More than any other activity throughout the year, the personal narrative forum affords kids the opportunity to share real aspects of themselves and for their peers to recognize, appreciate, and compliment them for it. English teachers have always had an implicit expectation to not only build better readers, writers, speakers, and listeners, but to create more empathetic and understanding human beings. Steve thinks Moodle is helping him do that successfully.



## Resources for Teachers



Socrative is a classroom app for fun and effective engagement of students and for the assessment of student learning. On-the-fly assessments can be created and launched using the Socrative app. Valuable feedback can be obtained from students during active learning by using the on-the-fly assessments created on Socrative. Immediate feedback can become a vital part of the teaching-learning process

through using these student assessments. Assessment activities on Socrative include Quiz, Space Race, Quick Question and Exit Tickets. From quizzes to polls, teachers can create a variety of question types to literally “throw out to students”. Students receive them on their mobile devices and are able to respond immediately.

To learn more about this app go to: [Socrative](#)



Remind makes it easier for teachers to communicate with both students and their parents. The app can be utilized for things ranging from simple announcements or reminders about assignment due dates and other important dates in a classroom to the initiation of group chats. Files, images, url links can be provided to students, parents and other participants in a class through the Remind app. It is a very easy app to use and has a lot of similarities to text messaging. Students and their parents can stay on top

of what is going on in a classroom. A community can be built around a classroom through effective use of this app.

To learn more about this app go to: [Remind](#)



Chem Pro puts a chemistry tutor in a student’s pocket. Chem Pro features an exclusive lesson library including 80 video lessons that cover an entire year of AP and General Chemistry. It also includes nine sets of flash cards for memorizing all the needed elements and polyatomic ions, as well as some essential tools including a periodic table, a molar mass calculator, a unit converter, and an equation sheet, allowing students to save time doing homework problems. The Periodic Table in the app can be used to quickly look up information on any element. The equation sheet contains all the needed chemical equations, laws, and constants that students of chemistry will find throughout the course.

The unit converter on Chem Pro contains all the standard units for length, mass, volume, temperature, pressure, energy, and time. This app can be a great tool for many chemistry students.

To learn more about this app go to: [Chem Pro](#)

## Indiana Increases the Number of STEM Certified Schools

Indiana now has 78 STEM certified schools. STEM certified schools were first being given certification in 2015. Schools are selected based upon their commitment to teaching STEM curricula across all subject disciplines in the school. STEM schools model a non-traditional approach to education. These schools employ a great deal of inquiry and project-based learning, community engagement in the schools, entrepreneurship and student-centered leaning. The humanities and arts are an integral part school curriculum, as well as out-of-school STEM programs and activities to engage students beyond the classroom. These schools do still need to meet educational policies set by the state legislature.

The following is a list of 2019 STEM Certified Schools in Indiana:

### **Elementary:**

- Avon Intermediate School East - Avon Community School Corporation
- Benton Elementary School - Fairfield Community Schools
- Bridgeport Elementary School - MSD Wayne Township
- Cold Spring School - Indianapolis Public Schools
- Crichfield Elementary School - LaPorte Community School Corporation
- Edgewood Intermediate School - Richland-Bean Blossom Community School Corporation
- Edgewood Primary School - Richland-Bean Blossom Community School Corporation
- Forest Park Elementary School - Clay Community Schools
- Mary Evelyn Castle Elementary School - MSD Lawrence Township
- Millersburg Elementary-Middle School - Fairfield Community Schools
- New Paris Elementary School - Fairfield Community Schools
- Southport Elementary School - Perry Township Schools
- Tri-Central Elementary School - Tri-Central Community Schools
- Unionville Elementary School - Monroe County Community School Corporation

### **Secondary:**

- Ben Davis High School - MSD Wayne Township
- Henry W. Longfellow Medical/STEM Middle School #28 - Indianapolis Public Schools
- Loogootee High School - Loogootee Community School District
- Plainfield Community Middle School - Plainfield Community School Corporation

## Professional Development Opportunities

### 49th Annual HASTI Conference

#### **ALL IN: Sharing the Vision for Indiana Science Education**

February 9 – 11, 2020  
Wyndham Indianapolis West  
2544 Executive Drive  
Indianapolis, IN 46241

HASTI's 2019 Conference will convene in Indianapolis from February 17-19. The HASTI conference is the premier professional development and networking opportunity for science teachers in Indiana. Concurrent sessions are led by teachers, college faculty, staff at informal education institutions, and STEM education industry representatives.

#### **Conference Registration**

Category	Pre-Registration Full	Pre-Registration One Day	Onsite Full Conference	Onsite Single Day
<b>Member</b>	\$99	\$69	\$119	\$79
<b>Nonmember</b>	\$149	\$109	\$169	\$119
<b>Retired / Student</b>	\$59	\$39	\$79	\$49
<b>Guest</b>	\$59	\$39	\$79	\$49

Field Trips, Workshops and Awards Banquet tickets are additional fees.

If 4 people from one school attend HASTI, your Superintendent or Principal will receive a complimentary registration!

#### **HASTI Exhibit Hall Registration**

[Register Here](#)

Contact: [Exhibitsmanager@hasti.org](mailto:Exhibitsmanager@hasti.org) for questions.

## Indiana STEM Education Conference 2020

The fifth-annual Indiana STEM Education Conference will be held at Purdue University on Wednesday, January 15, 2020. The Center for Advancing the Teaching and Learning of STEM (CATALYST), the Purdue University College of Education, and the Indiana Department of Education are proud sponsors of the conference.

Registration will begin at 8 a.m. and the conference will be from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with lunch included in the registration fee.

The goal of the Indiana STEM Education Conference is to support K-12 STEM learning opportunities by sharing effective practices on teaching and learning. The conference will have new features to address the needs of K-12 teachers and schools like:

- An annual theme, this year the theme is Meeting the Objectives of the Indiana STEM Strategic Plan.
- An afternoon workshop to help teachers earn career and economic PGP hours.
- Lunchtime speaker from the Indiana Department of Education.

There will be three session strands that align the conference with the STEM Strategic Plan:

1. STEM Instructional Strategies
2. STEM Curriculum
3. STEM Career Exposure
4. A fourth strand, STEM Education Research, will provide an opportunity for research poster sessions.

For more information or to register, go to: [Indiana STEM Education Conference 2020](#)

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## What PRISM Can Do For You!

- Easily find the perfect teaching and learning resources from our library of over 5,000.
- 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](http://www.rose-prism.org)