



hosted by

ROSE-HULMAN
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

December 2014
Volume 4, Issue 12

Newsletter

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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; will consider extensive record of success in lieu of degree. Programming skills in PHP, JavaScript, and HTML5; experience with database, information sharing, and interactive websites; 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

Upcoming PRISM Online Training Courses

Three FREE online Moodle training courses begin in January 2015. We offer Professional Growth Plan (PGP) points for each course.

Basic Moodle for Teachers (10 PGP Points) - January 6 – February 3

A basic introduction to Moodle 2.8.1. You will learn how to build a classroom course and populate it with files, assignments and quizzes.

Intermediate Moodle for Teachers (10 PGP Points) - January 7 - February 4

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) - January 8 – February 5

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.

Registration is now open on the PRISM website in the Event Registration section.

Using Scannable Technology to Reach Parents Year Round

Monica Burns, Edutopia



Scannable technology can be used throughout the school year to put all of the information that parents need right at their fingertips. Teachers can use QR codes and Augmented Reality triggers to keep families in the know from the first to the last day of school. As more families have access to a smartphone or tablet in their hand, in their pocket, or as backup, teachers are in a position to leverage this technology to make sure that students and their parents are aware of expectations inside and outside of the classroom.

Getting Started

First, you should explicitly introduce how you'll be using scannable technology to put information in the hands of your parents. Just as you build routines in your classroom, you'll need to demonstrate the scannable technology that you've decided to use, and send home instructions for getting started. This will be even simpler for your families if the students in your classroom use scannable technology on a regular basis. Students of all ages will know how to quickly access that night's homework assignment or find a video tutorial that you've connected to a QR code or AR trigger, since they're used to doing it at school.

Endless Possibilities

So what do you want parents to know? Scannable technology can connect users to any information on the web. This could be a link to your school's homepage, the class blog, or a calendar of events. Placing a QR code or AR trigger on a refrigerator magnet, or on a sticker attached to a take-home folder, means that students and parents will know exactly where to go when they scan to get more information. You can add a QR code or AR trigger to a homework assignment so that families can scan to watch a video tutorial or access an enrichment activity. If you update assignments or homework on an online portal, students can scan to see a reminder of what they need to complete as parents check in to make sure they are staying up to date. Whatever web content you want families to access easily can be connected to a QR code or AR trigger.

Choose Your Tech

There are a few different options to choose from when introducing scannable technology into your routines. QR codes are very straightforward and easy to create and scan. You can use a QR code generator like QRStuff.com to make QR codes for free, and families can scan them using any QR code reader app. i-nigma is one example that is available on most smartphones and tablets. Augmented reality triggers can be created using LayAR or Aurasma, and families will need to download a specific app to scan the triggers you make. No matter what you choose, students in your class will need a demonstration of how to scan a QR code or AR trigger.

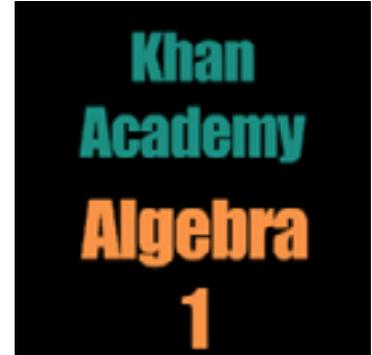
Things to Know

Teachers and schools looking to decrease their paper consumption and streamline announcements will also benefit from introducing scannable technology to parents and students. Although QR codes are not brand new, augmented reality is becoming more prominent, so you can make connections to STEM skills when introducing this technology.

Read more online at: <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/scannable-technology-to-reach-parents-monica-burns>

Khan Academy: Algebra 1

Ximarc Studios Inc is proud to bring you Khan Academy Algebra 1 (videos 1-36). Khan Academy Algebra allows students to learn Algebra through various videos which are downloaded directly on your iPhone or iPod touch and in the future to your iPad. Students can watch the video anywhere, anytime, all the time and NEVER be concerned about having access to the internet while you are going through a Khan Academy lesson.



Ximarc Studios will continue to bring you great video lessons from the Khan Academy.

Khan Academy is a non-profit organization with over 60,000 students world wide and is a library of videos numbering over 1100. Students are able to leverage a wide range of topics in Mathematics, Statistics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Khan Academy videos work through a numerous sets of problems providing the most comprehensive set of teaching videos available. Khan Academy also has sample standardized tests SAT and GMAT.

To learn more about the Khan Academy visit the website www.khanacademy.org.

For more information on Ximarc Studios visit the website www.ximarc.com.

All videos are copyright of Khan Academy.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/khan-academy-algebra-1/id358519986?mt=8>

Teach your Students the Right Way to Google

Kelly Maher, eSchool News

In the age of the split-second Google search, it's more critical than ever to train students to distinguish between primary and secondary sources.



As in decades past, proper research methods are an essential skill for today's students. At a time when most students (and adults, for that matter) are accustomed to heading straight to Google to answer all of their questions, being able to sagely sift through the good, the bad, and the ugly of search results is key to creating independent 21st century thinkers.

However, even when used properly, Google is not always the right resource. On its website, the Kentucky Virtual Library provides a detailed, student-friendly interactive map of the research process, called "How To Do Research," which spells out the steps for making the most of the research process, from planning to searching to taking notes and ultimately using gathered information effectively. Many educators like the map because it doesn't focus exclusively on web research, but instead provides a broader list of tools—think library catalogs and reputable magazines—that can be just as helpful for students.

Learn how to search

Print resources undoubtedly still have a place at the table, but it would be futile to deny that the ability to locate and evaluate online sources is an equally valuable skill. Do your students know how to find and refine effective search terms? Do they know how to filter results using advanced search options? To that end, Google's Search Education site offers a plethora of beginner, intermediate, and advanced search lesson plans related to picking the right terms, understanding results, narrowing a search, searching for evidence for research tasks, and evaluating the credibility of sources.

In addition to the Search Education Lessons, Google also offers a free Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) titled: "[Power Searching with Google](#)." (The course is taught by Dan Russell, a senior research scientist at Google, who is also the man behind [SearchResearch](#), a blog about all things search and research). If you have limited time, you may find the [Power Searching Quick Reference](#) useful, and the explainer video emporium Common Craft also offers a short video on [web search strategies](#), which students might find easy to digest.

Read more online at: <http://www.eschoolnews.com/2014/11/24/google-like-pro-678/2/>

Professional Development Opportunites



Middle School - High School Professional Development

Reading Apprenticeship: Writing Connections

- Grant-funded professional development for middle school teachers from California, Indiana, Michigan, and Pennsylvania
- Space is limited: apply by **March 1** to reserve a spot for your team

Participant Benefits

- This unique opportunity includes high quality professional development, both in-person and online, as well as online support, materials, and substitute costs — at no charge!
- Actual value of this grant-funded professional development is \$3,500 per teacher.
- Teacher stipends up to \$500 are available for participants.

Student Benefits

- Extensive reading of a broad range of complex, high quality texts.
- Strategic reading, problem-solving and writing.
- Close reading and use of textual evidence to support reasoning and writing.
- Building stamina and self-efficacy with progression toward independence.

Who Should Participate

- Any teacher from California, Indiana, Michigan, or Pennsylvania who independently teaches at least one regular education middle school (grades 6-8) science, history/social studies, or ELA class is eligible to participate.
- Participating school teams should include 6-9 teachers: 2-3 science, 2-3 history/social studies, 2-3 ELA teachers per school team.

Contact: Diane Lee - dlee2@wested.org - 510-302-4280

Further information: <http://readingapprenticeship.org/professional-development/middle-school-high-school/rawc-pd/>

Upcoming Events

Northrop Grumman Foundation Presents Real World Science: SUMMER TEACHING SEMINAR

REAL WORLD SCIENCE - YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

How Necessity Creates Innovation in Science and Technology

July 19-24, 2015 in New Orleans, LA

The National WWII Museum is excited to announce a week-long professional development opportunity to take place in the summer of 2015 for middle school science teachers. Twenty eight teachers from across the country will come to New Orleans to experience hands-on how necessity, knowledge, perseverance and skill lead to inventions, innovation, and careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), just like in World War II.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE: The seminar application is open to any science teacher (public, public charter, private, and parochial) with between 2 and 10 years of teaching experience in 5th-8th grade science, and who will be teaching a science course to students in the same age group in the 2015-2016 school year. Applications will be evaluated through a competitive process that will include information on teaching experience, a short written statement, and two letters of recommendation. Two spots will be reserved for qualifying Louisiana teachers.

COST: This seminar is supported by a grant from the Northrop Grumman Foundation. Teachers will receive free room and board in New Orleans, a travel stipend, and all seminar materials free of charge.

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



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.