



21 Things for the 21st Century Educator: Technology Every Educator Should Know

Purpose

The course provides “just in time” training through an online interface for K-12 educators based on the National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers (NETS-T). NETS standards reflect the basic technology skills every educator should possess. In the process of engaging in the *21 Things* course, educators develop their own skills and discover what students need in order to meet the NETS for students.

Project overview

The 21 modules in this course are described below:

1. **Assessment/Evaluation/Survey Tools** – This module covers tools to assist teachers with assessment of student learning, including rubrics and online survey tools. Teachers learn how to use data to shape instructional direction. The tools are also useful in determining staff professional development needs.
2. **Basics** – This module offers Microsoft Word tips and keyboard shortcuts that are a “must know” for every teacher.
3. **Blogs** - This module explores educational uses of blogs including posting assignments, communicating with parents, storing information, sharing expertise or for interactive lessons.
4. **Collaboration Tools** - Collaborating with colleagues can be difficult in our connected world, especially for anyone trying to work on a collective resource. This module explores Google Docs, one of the best free online resources that enables educators to work collaboratively.
5. **Content Area Tools** – Teachers will love this module exploring *Thinkfinity* and *Read-Write-Think*, websites filled with free lesson plans, interactive instructional materials, and professional development opportunities.
6. **Differentiated Instruction and Diverse Learning** – This module explores technology tools available to support the needs of all students including *Nettrekker’s Read Aloud* and *Dictionary* features, *Vozme’s* text to speech converter; and *1ClickAnswers* definition and pronunciation tools.
7. **Digital Citizenship** – This module explores the concept of digital citizenship and the appropriate use of technology both in and out of school.
8. **Digital Images** - The Internet has made it very easy to store, share and edit pictures online. This module explores outstanding sites offering free services.
9. **Digital Storytelling** – In this module, explore digital storytelling, a way to engage students in writing through stories enhanced by digital images.
10. **Face of Your Classroom** - This module examines a variety of resources teachers can use to create a web presence for students and parents to access classroom information online.
11. **Mentoring an Online Learner** – Through a current online learning resource, this module outlines topics schools must consider as they plan to offer online courses for students. There are many people involved in implementing online courses in schools/districts: administrators, technology coordinators, counselors, mentors, students, and parents. The website takes each of these roles and lists the important considerations each must bear in mind in order to provide a successful online program for students.

12. **Online Interactive Learning Tools** - Interactive websites are designed to enhance online learning opportunities and engage students in authentic learning processes. They interact with the user through a text-based or graphical user interface. This module introduces site well- known for their standards-based curricular activities.
13. **Online Video Resources** – This module introduces are a variety of video resources teachers can access online.
14. **Podcasting** – Podcasting is a way to deliver multimedia content to a wide audience. This module explores how to freely distribute learning opportunities and information on the Internet. It also explores how to 'tag' (categorize) podcasts to enable searching for specific topics of interest.
15. **Productivity Tools** – This module explores a variety of web tools that support presentations and document creating. The following tools offer free versions and allow you to be more productive as well as tech savvy.
16. **Professional Development** – This module explores online professional development opportunities offered through various organizations.
17. **Professional Organizations and Networking** - Belonging to a professional organization offers an opportunity to participate in a global learning community, exhibit leadership and technology skills, evaluate and reflect on current research, and contribute to the effectiveness and vitality of the teaching profession, school and community. This module offers links to educational organizations in the area of instructional technology and media.
18. **Research and Reference Tools** – This module explores educational databases and reference tools that provide reliable and valid information while saving search time.
19. **Staying Informed** – The daunting task of staying up-to-date on the immense amount of news, blogs, podcasts, and information available on the Web is made easier through RSS (Really Simple Syndication). This module explores how to subscribe to timely updates from favorite websites and aggregate feeds from many sites into one place.
20. **Staying Organized** - One of the easiest ways for teachers to improve productivity is to organize web bookmarks, and to make them available from any computer at home, work, or around the globe. This module teaches how.
21. **Visual Learning** - Research on effective teaching and learning strategies identifies non-linguistic representation as one of the nine most effective strategies (Marzano, et al). Explore various web-based visual learning tools in this module.

Access <http://21things.weebly.com/index.html>

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