



Lions' Adventures in Technology: Roaring into Digital Education 2.0!!

According to a recent report from the National Media Consortium, there are six technologies on our horizon that will change the face of the classroom as we know it. Collaborative environments, cloud computing, and "smart" objects are among the technologies that a group of experts believes will have a profound impact on K-12 education within the next five years or sooner. (Read the article online at <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=57910>)

In an effort to keep up with this digital trend, our Language Arts classes use several different websites, networks and online tools to keep our students engaged and to transform their learning.

Please read over this list and take some time to visit the links provided. Fill out the form at the bottom of the page and return it to class with your child.

- **Gaggle** – **Gaggle** is a safe web-based email solution for schools and students. **Gaggle** provides filtered email accounts where the teacher is in control. Student e-mail accounts are for instructional purposes and are governed by the MISD Acceptable Use Policy for the Internet and the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Built-in features of Gaggle are: email and spam filters, virus scanning, school monitoring, and moderated discussion forums

<https://www.gaggle.net/tour1.html>

- **Classmarker** – Classmarker is a website that allows students to take and review teacher-created quizzes. Scores are password-protected and accessed by the teacher.

<http://www.classmarker.com>

- **Ning** – A self-contained learning network that allows students to communicate with teachers and other students through messages and discussion forums. Membership & access to the Ning is by invitation only, and strictly follows the MISD Acceptable use Policy. Various features allow users to read news or learn about related events, join groups, read and comment on blog entries, view photos and videos, and other activities as set up by the teacher.

<http://koolteechakids.ning.com>

<http://bstund.ning.com>

- **Edmodo** – A private, micro-blogging platform that gives teachers, students, and even parents a sheltered place to manage classroom assignments and activities as well as engage in protected conversations. Students have access to a multi-media calendar with class event & assignments, downloadable files and can get calendar alerts via email or text messages.

<http://www.edmodo.com>

- Glogster** – Glogster is a great creativity site who's tag line is "poster yourself". A 'glog' is basically an online poster web page. Students can combine text, pictures, graphics, video, and audio to create an interactive online poster. Glogster has a very simple to use interface. The final glog can be hosted by Glogster or you can embed it into a wiki, blog, or class web site.

<http://www.glogster.com>

<http://koolteecha.glogster.com/Personal-Advertisement-Assignment/>

- Activeboard** – a private online forum that allows students to engage in collaboration via a protected discussion forum. Students can communicate with one another and respond to teacher-led discussions about class readings. Completely moderated, students' responses are reviewed by the teacher before posting them live on the board.

<http://koolteechakids.activeboard.com/>

- Quizlet** – An online flashcard website where students can practice weekly vocabulary through engaging activities

<http://www.quizlet.com>

http://quizlet.com/_mz77

- Xtranormal** – Students become a director with this free multi-media software that permits students to select setting, characters, and dialogue of their own design.

<http://www.xtranormal.com>

<http://www.xtranormal.com/watch?e=2009051821100959>

- VoiceThread** – With VoiceThread, group conversations are collected and shared in one place. A VoiceThread is a collaborative, multimedia slide show that holds images, documents, and videos and allows students to navigate pages and leave comments in different ways - using voice (with a microphone or telephone), text, audio file, or video (via a webcam). VoiceThreads can be shared with other students for them to record comments too.

<http://www.voicethread.com>

- Schootube** - SchoolTube is the recognized leader for moderated, internet media sharing for teachers and students. All student-created materials on SchoolTube must be approved by registered teachers, follow local school guidelines, and adhere to our high standards.

<http://www.schooltube.com>

- Wiffiti** – an interactive service which permits students to respond to teacher prompts by sending a text message to a secure number, then publishes their response in real-time to an embedded screen online.

<http://www.wiffiti.com>

I have read and approve of my child's use of these technologies in Language Arts this year.

Student Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date