



JANUARY 2007

Third Annual Capitol Tech

Five Forks Middle School, along with twelve other schools in Georgia, will be the focus of the third annual Capitol Tech, held at the State Capitol Building in Atlanta on January 23, 2007.

This event is being held to demonstrate to Georgia's legislators the positive impact that technology funding is having on instruction in Georgia's public schools.

Capitol Tech will spotlight students using the fundamental technology tools necessary to succeed in the 21st century. "Today's education system faces irrelevance unless we bridge the gap between how students live and how they learn," according to the *Learning for the 21st Century* report, a report published by The Partnership for 21st Century Skills, a public-private advocacy organization for changing learning in the new century.

Students and teachers are eager for their local legislators to see firsthand how these tools are helping to increase student achievement and build community partnerships.

Capitol Tech is a collaborative effort between Georgia's schools and the state's 13 Educational Technology Training Centers (ETTC). The team from Five Forks Middle School in Lawrenceville, GA, is representing the 15 school systems in northeast Georgia served by the ETTC based in the University of Georgia's College of Education.

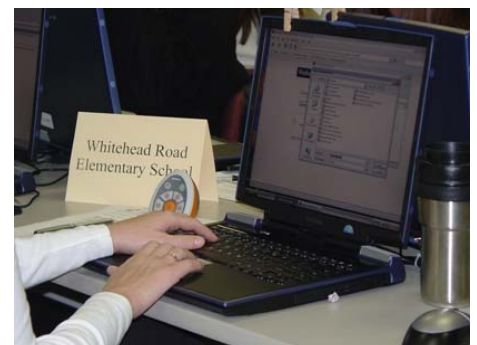


At this year's Capitol Tech, Five Forks Middle teacher Jerry Paxton and four of his students, Lexi Atkins, Eli Jones, Joey Moore, and Marc Sporn, will show legislators how they use technology in their Robotics class to apply skills and knowledge they have learned in their core classes (science, math, social studies, language arts) to real-life problem solving situations. In the Robotics class, students work in teams to design and program robots to perform certain tasks. The technology the

students use allows them to apply and extend what they learn in their other classes - making those concepts and skills more relevant, and thus, more memorable for them.

New Technology Bridges Classes Have Begun!

Our semesterly Technology Bridges course, EDIT 4150/6150, for preservice elementary and agriculture teachers has begun for the Spring 2007 semester. We are currently teaching approximately 130 students divided among five clusters—three elementary and two ag. ed.—one being taught in Tifton, GA. We provide each of our students with a laptop loaded with educational software, lcd projectors, ELMO visual presenters, Classroom Performance System voting devices, wireless slates, digital cameras, and much more.



Technology Bridges Cont.

Our ag. ed. students receive specialized technology for their field including laser range finders, GPS devices, and TI calculators with scientific probes. Each cluster attends six full days of training in which they learn, hands-on, how to use many different types of technology, not just computers, in the teaching and learning process. It is our goal that by providing these preservice teachers with positive technology experiences during their student teaching semester, they will continue to use technology to engage students when they get their first teaching jobs.

UGA ETTC to Present at Gwinnett County Conference

Dr. John Wiggins, Zack Summerlin, and Julie Davis will be presenting "The Classroom Performance System: Practical, Powerful Possibilities" at the Gwinnett County Public Schools Conference on January 23, 2007. They will be demonstrating how the Classroom Performance System can enhance the teaching and learning process. With this system of personal response devices (clickers) and receiver, you can assess your students' comprehension of content with the touch of a button, grade tests in seconds, generate reports to guide instructional decisions, and much, much more. Overall, you can use the CPS to learn more about your students in order to make the best possible instructional decisions for them. The conference session will

allow the participants to receive hands-on practice with the CPS as well as share in ideas for its use in the teaching and learning process.



eMath Grant Update

The half-way point for the third year of the eMath grant is upon us. Participating teachers from Union Point Elementary, Social Circle Elementary, Chase Street Elementary, and Commerce Elementary are continuing to implement technology into the math curriculum to increase student engagement and achievement.

Commerce Elementary teachers have recently acquired several new technologies including SMART Board interactive whiteboards, Airliner wireless slates, and Classroom Performance System voting devices for every 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classroom. In the face-to-face training days, 5th grade teachers and teachers new to the grant are writing technology-connected units to be implemented next school year.

In the collaborative training days, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade teachers

are teaching each other "techno-instructional strategies," or ways they are using technology in math lessons. Soon, students of eMath teachers will be taking the Spring BAM, or Balanced Assessment in Mathematics. Expectations are that the technology integration and professional development provided for by the eMath grant will lead to increased scores from the Fall to Spring BAMs. Last year all of the schools saw a significant increase in student performance on the CRCT.

Important Deadlines

Hardware Inventory: due February 9th. Visit

<http://07techinventory.doe.k12.ga.us/2007hs/hsStart.html> to

complete this inventory. Contact us if you need assistance.

The 8th Grade Technology Literacy Assessment: If you have data on the technology literacy assessment, submit by February 8th. If you would like assistance in developing a test bank for the technology literacy assessment, please contact us by January 31st.



UGA ETTC

<http://ttc.coe.uga.edu>