



EDGE



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Dear VSTE Member:

Welcome back to a new school year and to another volume of the VSTE Edge. We trust your first few weeks of school have started well. All of us recognize that many of our colleagues in states affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita are struggling to cope with tremendous loss on personal and professional levels. The board members of VSTE wanted to be sure that our membership has an opportunity to continue to read about rebuilding efforts even when such items disappear from headlines in other media. For this reason, we are committed to putting links in each Edge issue this year that directly relate to helping teachers and students in the affected states.

If you would like to contribute a link(s) related to relief efforts, or links to resources that your colleagues might be able to use in their schools, please send them to us at: edge_submissions@vste.org

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This month's VSTE Edge links are courtesy of Mrs. Liesl Combs, Ross Perkins, and "LL & L Productions" of Frederick County Public Schools.

Early Elementary (K-2)

Literacy Center.Net

Focus: Letters, writing, numbers, colors, shapes, etc.

This site is very interactive for early learners. It enforces writing skills, object recognition and provides visuals with reinforcements. Available in multiple languages.

<http://www.literacycenter.net/>

Kids Next Door

Focus: Job recognition and matching

Students are given a brief job description and asked to match it with a picture of the person doing the job. Also supports ways for kids to volunteer and help the homeless (character education).

<http://www.hud.gov/kids/people.html>

Let's Count

Focus: Counting, math

This site provides many ways for students to practice counting skills.

Activities are offered in both English and Spanish.

<http://math.rice.edu/~lanius/counting/index.html>

Visual Fractions

Focus: Fractions, estimating

<http://www.visualfractions.com/>

Elementary (3-5)

Astronomy for Kids

Focus: Solar system, galaxy, space exploration

This site provides middle-level students with facts and information regarding space exploration, the solar system and related topics. A dictionary of related terms is available and "kid-friendly". Excellent resource for research

<http://kidsastronomy.com/index.htm>

Ken White's Coin Flipping Page

Focus: Data collection, probability

This is a very simple site that models flipping coins. It allows users to enter the number of coins to flip and displays each result. Excellent for data collection and probability units.

<http://shazam.econ.ubc.ca/flip/index.html>

National Geographic Kids

Focus: Geography, memory

This interactive games supports memory skills while introducing the

continents. Students are required to follow the patterns created by navigating through the continents. They are exposed to continent names and locations.

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/ngkids/games/copycat/copycat.html>

Monster Exchange

Focus: Reading, writing, communication

"Monster Exchange is designed to encourage the development of reading and writing skills while integrating Internet technology into the classroom curriculum." (from website description)

<http://www.monsterexchange.org/>

Middle (6-8)

RiverWeb

Focus: Mississippi River system, navigating through features of the river

This website leads students through several aspects of the Mississippi River system including the agriculture, wildlife, industry, etc. The activities provided are interactive and provide opportunities for "helping" the river system.

<http://www.riverwebmuseums.org/>

The Atom's Family

Focus: Atoms, energy, electricity

This site is a great resource for physical science related topics. It gives students of many levels ideas for labs and activities to enhance their science skills.

<http://www.miamisci.org/af/sln/>

What Tree Is It?

Focus: Tree identification

This site provides several different varieties of trees. It leads the students through many ways of identifying trees, the usefulness of trees and what to avoid. A great research resource.

<http://www.oplin.org/tree/>

Presidential Portraits

Focus: President identification

This is a great research resource. It provides students with all past presidents, their term of office and a clear portrait.

<http://www.historyplace.com/specials/portraits/presidents/index.html>

Ideas! Ideas! Ideas!

L L & L Productions

The middle school years and integrating technology into the curriculum seem to go hand in hand. Student interest in computers and enthusiasm for learning with technology is practically a given. Virginia Standards require that students become proficient in a variety of technology skills by the time they finish the 8th grade. No Child Left Behind also requires the effective use of technology and e-learning by teachers and students. However, successful integration requires planning and training.

The three Middle School Technology Resource Teachers for Frederick County Public Schools have compiled a variety of tried and true integrated lessons for all core subject areas. These lessons were designed using the Microsoft Office Suite software: Word, Excel, Access and PowerPoint. Our presentation, Ideas! Ideas! Ideas!, at the 2004 Educational Technology Leadership Conference in Roanoke, Virginia, gave an overview of many of the lessons available through our BlackBoard site.

You may access this site by going to: <http://bboard.frederick.k12.va.us/>

The username MSI01 and password MSI01 are case sensitive.

Contributed by Ms. Lucia Thomas, TRT, Frederick County Middle School; Ms. Liz Thomas, TRT, Robert E. Ayler Middle School; and Mrs. Laura Burdick, TRT, James Wood Middle School.

High School (9-12)

Citation Machine

Focus: Research citations, bibliographies

"Citation Machine is an interactive Web tool designed to assist teachers in modeling the proper use of information property." Also available to students, they enter the information and type of citation they wish to use. This website will generate the correct citation.

<http://citationmachine.net/>

Endangered Earth

Focus: Science, endangered species

This is a great research resource providing up to date information regarding endangered species. Also available are ways of helping protect animals,

rainforests, etc.
<http://www.endangereearth.com/>

Quotations at Bartleby.com

Focus: Research, quotes

This site allows the user to search for famous quotes and famous people. A great resource for research as well as essay topics.

<http://www.bartleby.com/quotations/>

Discovering Lewis & Clark

Focus: History, geography, explorers

This site provides extensive information about the Lewis & Clark expedition. Categories include geography, problems encountered, journal entries, etc.

<http://www.lewis-clark.org/>

All Grades

National Library of Virtual Manipulatives

Focus: Various math skills

This site provides a wealth of math manipulatives. They are available for most topics and grade levels.

<http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/index.html>

Jefferson Lab

Focus: SOL review, multi-subject

This site is an excellent resource providing online practice for SOL tests. All grades and subjects are represented with sample questions.

<http://education.jlab.org/solquiz/>

Interactive Quizzes

Focus: SOL remediation, review

Similar to Jefferson Labs, this site provides an extensive online resource of SOL related activities. Sample tests and quizzes are available for all grade levels and subjects.

<http://www.iq.poquoson.org/index.html>

Planet Quest

Focus: Science, space exploration

This site, offered through NASA has a lot of information on previous and current space exploration. Several activities lead students through scientific research and discovery.

<http://planetquest.jpl.nasa.gov/index.cfm>

Administrators

DataUse

Focus: Data-driven decision making

"This website provides resources on data-driven decision-making, including reviews of software for analyzing student data"

<http://www.csos.jhu.edu/datause/index.htm>

Technology Lessons

Focus: Administrator's role in technology leadership

This article (1998) by a former superintendent offers five timeless lessons about the role that technology plays in school and the administrator's response to it.

<http://www.electronic-school.com/0698f3.html>

Conquering NCLB with Technology

Focus: Technology, NCLB

This article appeared in the September 2005 edition of T.H.E. Journal.

<http://www.thejournal.com/magazine/vault/A5465.cfm>

Principals' Electronic Desktop

Focus: Links for building-level administrators

<http://nprc.educationworld.com/>

Hurricane Relief Links

[ISTE's Statement](#)

[NEA Hurricane Response](#)

[Alabama Dept. of Education Hurricane Information](#)

[Arkansas Dept. of Education Hurricane Information](#)

[Florida Dept. of Education Relief Efforts](#)

[Louisiana Dept. of Education How to Help](#)

[Mississippi Dept. of Education Relief Efforts](#)

[Texas Education Agency How to Help](#)

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and journalism at Christiansburg Middle School for five years. Liesl is currently a doctoral student in the [Instructional Design and Technology](#) program at [Virginia Tech](#).

VSTE Membership Records can be updated online at:
<http://www.vste.org/community/membership.html>

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