



SCKDLN Distance Learning News!

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2010

DISTANCE LEARNING PROVIDES:

- Student projects
- Enrichment to Curriculum
- An alternative to Field Trips
- Professional Development

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

IDL Training 2

KSDE Conference 2

Monster Exchange 3

Collaboration Opportunities 3

Featured Provider 3

Contact Information 4

Odds & Ends 4

Welcome Back 2010-2011!

If you are new to South Central Kansas IDL, you will be receiving a Newsletter every other month with information about Distance Learning.

In this issue you will find resources available to you through videoconferencing, upcoming events, collaboration opportunities, and lots more! Be sure to read archived Newsletters found



on the SCKDLN website.

The pools are closing, Autumn is on it's way, and students have entered the building! The year is off to a busy start. IDL classes are up and running over the

network. Be sure

to report any technical issues you encounter. Remember that your videoconferencing equipment is not just for IDL classes, but makes

access to the world possible in your classroom! There are many amazing opportunities for your students using videoconferencing.

I hope everyone had a fun and relaxing summer and welcome back!

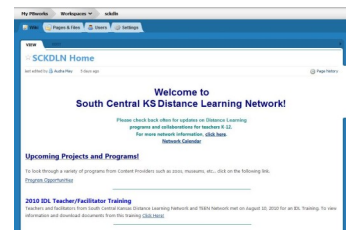
"Technology is just a tool. In terms of getting the kids working together and motivating them, the teacher is the most important." -Bill Gates

SCKDLN Launches PBWorks Site

There is a new location to find all of your Network and Special Program needs! There is a new PBWorks website with information on upcoming programs, events, and much more! Go to: <http://sckdln.pbworks.com> and take a look. The front page has many upcoming events and will help you navigate to find what you are looking for. The Program Opportunities link will take you to a page to allow you to search for special programs by subject area. Also notice the 2010-2011 WSU Fairmount Center program list is now available from the front page. Find out what openings are left or if you are already registered! Other items you will find:

- Downloadable forms (registration, evaluation, etc...)
- Archived Newsletters
- Polycom Events for this year (Free!)
- Upcoming Conferences
- Collaboration Opportunities
- Upcoming Student Projects
- Items for Sale!
- Professional Development
- Read Around the Planet

This site also allows interaction with the IDL facilitators in your district. There will be training for facilitators mid-September to view all of the features they will have access to. This will help stream-line the registration process for IDL projects. On the right is the side bar with contact information, a page to download the registration form, and other helpful links.



Updates and new opportunities are posted regularly, so be sure to check back often. This website is newly born and will be adapting to meet your needs! Do you have information or ideas about Distance Learning you would like to post? Contact Audra May. Please leave a comment on any page with thoughts, ideas, or corrections!

Summer IDL Workshop



SCK teachers and facilitators

August 10, 2010 IDL teachers and facilitators from South Central KS Distance Learning Network and the TEEN Network joined together by videoconference for a one day workshop to learn about videoconferencing in the classroom. Teachers and facilitators were able to network and discuss many hot topics in the IDL classroom.

To begin, the participants played a game of "Get to Know You Bingo". You may have played this game to begin a workshop, but have you played it with participants over videoconference? It was a good activity to get everyone involved with the technology.

Elvis joined in the connection to teach the group about etiquette over videoconference. He presented the "What not to do's" as well as gave excellent exam-

ples of what your students would be viewing from their point of view. Playing the role of "Elvis" was Shane Howard of Whirlidurb (provider of content over videoconference) out of Waco, Texas. Shane did a good job of keeping the participants awake after a hearty lunch!

In the afternoon, participants were able to get hands-on with the IDL equipment. This was a good opportunity for the new teachers to experience videoconferencing connections and get to know the equipment.

To wrap up the day was a Q & A session. Having the veteran IDL teachers and facilitators was an excellent resource for new IDL teachers and facilitators.

The workshop was hosted at Argonia High School and lunch was provided by South Central KS Distance Learning Network. There were many vendors that sponsored the event such as: Polycom, Tandberg, SKC Smart Communications, Kan-Ed, and



Etiquette session hosted by Elvis!

Whirlidurb. The Mariners' Museum gave away several jump drives and a free content program. Congratulations to Becca Leiblie of Udall on the free Mariners' program

and Stacie Osborn of Oxford on winning the grand prize, an Apple iPod sponsored by Polycom! Everyone walked away with a prize and ideas to take back to their IDL classroom.

New this year...several sessions during the conference focusing on Distance Learning in the Classroom.

KSDE Annual Conference 2010

Kansas Department of Education is having their Annual Conference this year at the Hyatt Regency and Century II Convention Center in Wichita. There will be a preconference day October 25. Then the main conference will be held Tuesday, October 26 and Wednesday, October 27, 2010. This year's theme is *Embracing Our Future* showcasing Kansas school success stories and addressing some of our schools' most significant challenges for the future.

New this year, the KAIDE Group (Kansas Association of Interactive Distance Education) is hosting several sessions during the conference focusing on Distance Learning in the classroom. Videoconferencing can be a means to cuts costs on travel for meetings, professional development and bring enrichment into your classroom. There are approximately 47 high school and college classes over IDL in South Central Kansas alone.

The topics included at the KSDE conference this year include:

- NASA Digital Learning Showcase—Find out what NASA has to offer to enrich your curricu-

lum through NASA's many resources! -Ryan Schaffer NASA Johnson Space Center

- Got Video Conferencing? Now What? - You currently have the technology in your school, find out in this session about all of the great resources you now have at your fingertips. -Paul Hieronymus, Northern Ohio Research & Training Technology Hub
- The Emerging Technology Game—Come play a fun and interactive game to look at some of the cutting edge technologies making a push into our classrooms. Who said learning can't be fun! Paul Hieronymus, Northern Ohio Research & Training Technology Hub
- Enriching Your Curriculum with Interactive Videoconferencing—Learn many exciting educational opportunities available via videoconferencing. See how to use the Internet to find programs available correlated to your curriculum. Janine Lim, Berrien RESA

Find out about more sessions and how to register at: www.ksde.org (under Announcements)

Monster Exchange Project

Trying to find an engaging and interactive project for your students? Join the Monster Exchange Project during the last 2 weeks in October. This project focuses on descriptive writing, geometry, teamwork, and following directions.

Classes will be partnered with students in other states to work together. Each class will draw a monster of their choice using shapes, colors, textures, and common classroom construction items. Then each class will write directions how they created their monster and trade them with their partner class via email. Using these new directions, the classes will recreate the partner's monster. During the last 2 weeks in October, the classes will meet with their partner over IDL to share what their class has created. Find out if your directions were as detailed as you thought! Students also practice presentation skills as they show off their work!

This project is free to participate in. Registration deadline is September 27, 2010. Register with Audra May. Also watch for the Snowman Exchange Project coming in December.

Collaboration Opportunities

A Collaboration is a connection between two classrooms with a common subject or purpose. Below are a few new collaborations posted by teachers seeking partners:

Title: Bullying

Description: Seeking Middle School (grades 6, 7, 8) interested in sharing student ideas on dealing with bullies.

Location: Olathe, KS

Title: Honors Level Novel Discussion

Description: English 4 AP (Honors) Literature class seeking partners (grades 11, 12) to collaborate in a novel discussion. We will be reading: Hamlet, Huck Finn, Franken-

stein, Jane Eyre, Wuthering Heights, several short stories, and poetry.

Location: Los Fresnos, TX

Title: Polacco Partners

Description: Seeking third grade. Classes will read a Patricia Polacco book, then each class will generate discussion questions and create a response project for the other to complete.

Location: Mohegan Lake, NY

If interested in a topic or want to post your own, contact Audra May.

Featured Provider: The Mariners' Museum

The Mariners' Museum, located in Newport News, Virginia, uses videoconferencing technology to bring educational programs to your classroom! The museum was founded in 1930 and is home to approximately 35,000 artifacts.

There are a variety of IDL programs for Science, History, and Language Arts, including:

- Pirates—Set sail with the museum's educators to learn about pirates such as Blackbeard and Captain Kidd, the stereotypical concepts of pirates, and modern day pirates.
- Age of Exploration—students will examine how the European desire to



find a sea route to Asia fueled an Age of Exploration. Students will also examine the economic and cultural life of the Old World and find out the importance of spices to 15th century Europe with a hands-on kit.

- Titanic—during this program, the students will gain an understanding of early 20th century society as reflected by the passengers aboard as they learn about the events leading up to its collision with an iceberg.
- Anansi and other African Tales—in this entertaining and educational program, students will listen to stories and learn how African storytell-

ers incorporate music to help tell their tales. They will become part of the storytelling by using their own handmade musical instruments.

- Clash of Armor—this program is the perfect complement to any study of the American Civil War. Students discuss the Anaconda Plan and the Confederacy's building of the CSS Virginia, then follow the events of history's first naval battle between two ironclad ships.

Programs offered by The Mariners' Museum align with national standards and can be adjusted to meet the specific needs of classroom teachers and students. Programs vary on grade level from Kindergarten through 12th.

South Central KS Distance Learning



For questions, or to submit an article please contact:

Audra May

Distance Learning Coordinator

Phone: 620-440-2099

E-mail: audra.may@usd358.com

Watch for upcoming opportunities at:

Follow SckDLN on twitter:

<http://twitter.com/sckDLN>



Distance Learning allows school districts to provide student access to secondary courses that were not previously offered because of low enrollment, lack of qualified instructors or funding.

In addition to the identified priority of serving secondary students, Distance Learning holds promises of curricular enhancements for students in every grade level. You can defy boundaries of the classroom and let the world in the door with Distance Learning. Bring the primary sources-real objects, activities, and scholars from the staff of history and art museums, research and science centers right into the classroom.

Odds and Ends

Mark Your Calendars!

- September 15 IDL Teacher Support Group
- Mid-September Website training for Facilitators
- October 2010 Monster Exchange Register through Sept. 27
- 2011 Read Around the Planet Registration will begin Nov. 1, 2010.
- December 2010 Snowman Exchange. Register through Nov. 22

IDL Teacher Support Group

For all of the new IDL teachers, there will be a meeting over IDL on September 15 at 3:45pm. Now that you have been in the classroom a few weeks, this is your chance to network with other IDL teachers and discuss issues that you have become aware of. This is also the time to share success stories to help other IDL teachers! Contact Audra May to join this meeting.

Firing Up Equipment

Tip for IDL Carts (HD or SD): Over the summer, IDL equipment probably was unplugged and possibly moved around. To avoid a few small issues, make sure to:

- Replace all remote batteries (HD remotes state when they are low, but a fresh set will last through the year).
- When plugging things back in, make sure to plug the network cable into the unit **FIRST**, then plug in the power cord and turn on. We have seen several instances where the unit does not maintain the IP Address when the network cable is plugged in last. In this case, you would need to go into the settings and enter the IP Address manually.
- Test your connection! Prior to the day of your connection, be sure to turn on equipment and do a quick test. Contact Bryan McChesney or Audra May if you need someone to test with.

